



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness. Isaiah the prophet calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus by making straight all that is crooked. We hear: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, straight in the desert a highway for our God. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

An appointed person now lights three candles on the wreath, the last one being the pink candle.

Celebrant: Let us pray: All: Loving God, You sent John the Baptist as a voice crying out in the desert, open our ears to hear his message and shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you. We light this pink candle in joy, the joy that we have in Jesus, our Saviour the one who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next Weekend's Mass Times

Saturday—Beulah, 7.30pm
 Sunday— Hopetoun, 9.00am
 Rainbow, 11.00am

Next week's Readings
 1st Reading: Isa, 7:10-14
 2nd Reading: Rom 1:1-7
 Gospel: Mt, 1:18-24

St Patrick's School
Tuesday, December 13:
Thanksgiving End of Year
Mass at 6pm in the church.

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent,



St Patrick's Nhill, School Report

Thanksgiving Mass— Next Tuesday St Patricks School students will celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass with Fr Neville. This year we have no graduating Year 6 students but we will celebrate the fantastic year we have had with our students and families. We would love for some of our parishioners to join us at 6.00pm in the church if they are available. We will conclude this celebration with a BBQ tea and our award ceremony.

Junior Class Excursion to Halls Gap— Students in our junior class are really looking forward to their extended day excursion to Halls Gap zoo, followed by Mini Golf and Chinese in Horsham on the way home next week. Thanks you to Miss Farquharson for organising this excursion.

Reading Counts..... 1,2,3 Read With Me— We have our final Reading Counts session on Monday 12th December in St Patricks Community Hall starting at 9.00am. This session will have a Christmas focus and we welcome all members of the community to participate in this amazing experience.

Thank You— This is the last school report from St Patrick's School this year. A huge thank you to all parishioners and families who have supported our school in the last twelve months. Your attendance at masses and special events has been greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to a wonderful year in 2017 but in the mean time St Patrick's School staff and student's would like to wish everyone in our parish, and neighbouring parishes of Warracknabeal and Hopetoun a very peaceful and blessed Christmas season. May all the joy of the festive season come to each and everyone of you.

The Season of Advent

It's a time traditionally marked for remembering the years of preparation and consecration prior to the coming of the Messiah. For many centuries, the Church has identified the beginning of the Christmas celebration with a time of reflection and expectation called Advent. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival" and when used in combination with Christmas, reminds us of the anticipation and expectation held over hundreds of years by the people of Israel for their Messiah and promised King.

For centuries before Christ, Hebrews rabbis methodically and passionately taught the Jewish people that the Messiah was coming. They taught that the people should be ready to embrace their King when he appeared. They emphasized the need for holy living and obedience to God's law.

Today we mark Advent in the Christian church with the display or a wreath—its circle reminds us of God Himself, eternal and endlessly merciful. It is evergreen—reminding us of the hope of eternal life. The four outer candles incorporated into the display represent the time of waiting and preparation for the Messiah during the four Sundays of Advent. The light of the candles reminds us of the Light of the world, and the prophetic promise of His coming.

Thank you to Fr Neville for celebrating an Anointing Mass last Thursday for our Parishioners.

Parish & St Patrick's School Christmas Raffle.

Once again Catholic Church Insurance has donated us a beautiful Christmas Hamper to raffle this year so we will join with the school community in this wonderful fundraiser. Tickets are available at the back of the church this morning. If you haven't returned your books today, please drop them at the school on Monday. The raffle will be drawn at the End of Year celebrations on Tuesday, December 13. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Card and Columban Calendars : These items are available for sale at the back of the church

St Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Collection:

There will be a box at the back of the church, as of today, if you would like to make a contribution to this appeal. As in past years, we will forward any money collected to Warracknabeal group.

Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to Mary Jones on the recent death of two of her sisters, Patricia & Veronica. May they rest in Peace.

Congratulations Warracknabeal Ladies!! - On behalf of the Parish community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to your Ladies Club for completing 40 glorious years of success. You have always been on the top of the list for serving the Parish and the wider Community with your unselfish services. Clubs like yours with a brilliant team of dedicated ladies and with a friendly work environment can only aim for high results. Working with you has been a real honour and I value each and every member of your club with much respect. With your commitment and sincerity you have time and time again proved your worth and have gained much deserved recognition and reputation. With your services, the Warracknabeal community has gained a lot for the past 40 years. You have always kept the peoples satisfaction as your priority and have gone beyond their expectations. Your members consider it a privilege working in your club, where they get all the fellowship and support possible. Not only do you provide a service to our community but also you illumine the face of Christ. through the service, care and help you provide. I wish you all the success for many more years to come. And I hope to continue witnessing Jesus with you in the future. God Bless you all.

St Mary's Parish Warracknabeal

Parish Priest Fr Neville Stanislaus.
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 Parish Secretary,
 Cath Bellis—stmpcw@gmail.com,
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St Mary's Primary School,
 Principal, Joy Quarrell, 53982001

St Joseph's Hopetoun. P.O Box 141
 Parish Secretary, Jacki Hogan 50833566
 St Joseph's Primary School.
 Principal, Cynthia Maiden, 50833296

St Patrick's Nhill, 33 Leahy Street, Nhill.
 Contact Ann Munro—53929272
 St Patrick's Primary School.
 Principal, Kathryn Bendall, 53911575

St Mary's Rainbow
 Contact Kath White, 53957261

St Augustine's Beulah
 Contact Brendan Naylor, 50837242

St Patrick's Minyip
 Contact Margaret Murphy, 53857479

Last Weekends Collections

Warrack:
 Planned Giving \$ 193.00
 Presbytery \$157.00

Nhill
 Planned giving \$127.00
 Presbytery \$105.00

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve:
 5.00pm, Nhill
 7.00pm, Rainbow
 8.30pm, Hopetoun

Christmas Day:
 8.30am, Warracknabeal

NHILL	Reader & Prayers	Lay Leaders	Eucharistic Minister	Offertory Procession	Monthly Collector	Counter	Cleaner
Roster for Dec 11	K Clohesy	_____	A Munro	L Welsh	Robert Picone	J Kennedy	M Millington
Roster for Dec 18	J Gurry+	K Bendall & D Munro	C Kennedy	_____	Robert Picone	E Cameron	M Millington

Pray for our Sick

Una Bartlett
 Marj Parker
 Fred Webb

Recent Death
 Basil Merrett
 Margaret MacKenzie
 Russell Collins [Qld]
 [Leone's nephew]

St Patrick's School

1, 2, 3 ... read with me

Last Session:
Monday, 12 December
9-10am
Creating tomorrow's bookworm