

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Fr Paul Mercovich

Presbytery: 5491 1614
Mobile: 0417 562 243

SUNDAY (C)

December 4th 2016

THE YEAR OF MERCY
2nd Sunday of Advent

BULLETIN NOTICES

Please forward any notices for the bulletin to Kim Collins (Laffin)

By **THURSDAY 5pm**

Phone: 54912441 or 0410402027

kimlaff@bigpond.com

NEXT WEEKS MASS TIMES

2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

SATURDAY, 7.30P.M –
CHARLTON

SATURDAY, 7.00P.M –
WEDDERBURN*

SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –
ST. ARNAUD

SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –
DONALD

*Lay Led Liturgy

NEXT WEEKENDS MASS ROSTER

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: Val Bourke✓/*

Sandra Patton✓* Julie McGrath*

READERS: Kim Thompson

PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL: Jeff McLoughlan

GIFTS : Jo and Bill Russell

ALTAR SERVERS: Maddison and Elliot Fitzpatrick

FLOWERS: Dawn Mulquinny

HOME VISITING: Jo Russell

COUNTERS: This week: Frank and Nance Sait

Next week: Brendan Bourke and Paul Fitzpatrick

CHURCH CLEANING: C Livingston, V Bourke, L Whykes

Weekday Mass Times:

Wednesday 10.30 a.m.

EWHS Thursday 9.30 a.m.

Friday 11.30 am

Reconciliation on request

Feasts: Monday: St. John Almond, priest and martyr in Elizabeth's England 1612; **Tuesday:** St. Nicholas (Santa Claus . Nicholas) bishop of Myrna in now part of Turley patron saint of Pawnbrokers, his insignia of 3 golden balls represent the 3 purses secretly given to a poor man for the dowry of his 3 daughters. **Thursday:** St. Ambrose bishop of Milan who was instrumental in the conversion of St. Augustine. **Friday:** The Immaculate Conception of Mary; **Saturday:** St. John Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin of Mexico, converted to Christianity, the married man said to have a vision of Mary, had a church built which honours Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe

CHRISTMAS, MASS TIMES:

- Christmas eve 7 pm at Charlton, and 8.30 am at Wedderburn.
- St Arnaud Christmas eve 8.30 pm, Christmas Day 8.30 am , Banyena Christmas Day at 10.30 am)

ANOINTING MASS

- CHARLTON 11 AM 21ST DEC.
- St. Arnaud 2 pm 20th Dec.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

- CHARLTON 7 pm 20TH DEC
- ST ARNAUD 7pm 21ST DEC

OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

- JOE O'CONNOR
- MARY TUTTLE
- LEON BYRNE
- OLIVE SAIT

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

- Bailey Delaney
- Vin Sait
- Fr John Keane

Advent: A Time of Preparation

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

As in Lent, Advent should be marked by increased prayer, fasting, and good works. While the Western Church no longer has a set requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church, both Catholic and Orthodox, continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas. Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Sadly, Advent today has supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by Christmas Day, many people no longer enjoy the feast.

In its symbolism, the Church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent more than halfway over.

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles, (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the center), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.)

<http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/Advent.htm>

FAMILY VIOLENCE We must always say 'no' to violence in the home - Pope Francis

The Bishops of Victoria recently finalised a statement on domestic violence, acknowledging the importance of this issue, and urging the Catholic community to play a part in preventing and responding to violence within the family. A copy of this statement is available today, together with a supporting document designed to help all of us in responding when we are aware of abuse.

CHRISTMAS PLAY AND CRIB. NOON TO 4 P.M. Monday 12th December at the St. Arnaud Parish Centre there will be a presentation led by Fr. Andrew Hayes P P of Ararat, a creative person, along with others. Keep this time free and come along

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of Christmas Nativity scenes will be held in Robinvale on December 7, Mildura from December 8-11, St Arnaud on December 12 AT NOON and St Patrick's Hall, Ballarat from December 15 -18. If you are able to volunteer an hour at any of the displays, see Fr Paul.

It has been noted that Catholic Education has been in Charlton about 120 years. Is it reason to celebrate? If you are interested in being part of such a celebration we need expressions of interest immediately in forming a committee to organise such an event. Please contact Anne Kenny or Val Bourke.

Columba calendars are now on sale at \$9.00. Please see Val Bourke.

Collections

	<u>Planned Giving</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>
06.11.16	\$302.00	\$208.60
13.11.16	\$661.00	\$164.50
20.11.16	\$1,082.00	\$296.55
27.11.16	\$152.00	\$170.40
	Missions	\$40.00

