

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Fr Paul Mercovich

Presbytery: 5491 1614
Mobile: 0417 562 243

SUNDAY (C)

November 27th 2016

THE YEAR OF MERCY
1st 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

1st SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**SUNDAY, 10.30 A.M. –
CHARLTON**

**SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –
WEDDERBURN**

**SATURDAY, 7.30 P.M. –
ST. ARNAUD**

**SUNDAY, 10.30 A.M. –
DONALD**

*Lay Led Liturgy

NEXT WEEKENDS MASS ROSTER

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: Michael Bourke√*

Anne Calnin√* Bernadette Zagame* Nursing Home•

READERS: Noreen Ryan

PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL: Bernadette Zagame

GIFTS : Maree Hooper and Anne Kenny

ALTAR SERVERS: Fergus and Oscar Bourke

FLOWERS: Noreen Ryan

HOME VISITING: Margaret Fradd

COUNTERS: This week: Matt and Elaine Donaldson

Next week: Frank and Nance Sait

CHURCH CLEANING: C Livingston, V Bourke, L Whykes

OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:

RECENT DEATHS:

- Gerard Griffiths
(Jo Russell's brother)

ANNIVERSARIES:

- VINCE DABRON
- WIN O'DONOVAN
- PHILLIP O'BRIEN
- JOHN NICOLSON
- DEANNE RYAN
- RICKY MULQUINY
- MAUREEN PETERS
- VINCE FITZPATRICK
- MARY THOMPSON

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

- Bailey Delaney
- Vin Sait
- Fr John Keane

November Remembering our Past Family members and friends. Those who have been prominent in our lives. During this month we will be remembering as usual those who have died and we wish to pray for. There are envelopes in your planned giving sets and more on the seats of the church.



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>

MARRIAGE AND YOUR FUTURE:

With so much talk on international politics and the increased advertising of Christmas for commercial purpose it can be easy to put to one side talk of marriage. Marriage is a continuing spiritual battle ground and we, the church, need to keep vigilant and well equipped.

Christian married couples, while never perfect, are in 'mission' through the continuing witness of their lives and love to those around them. They are characterized by openness to the life of the Spirit within them, by loving service to their neighbours, and by sharing their talents/gifts and blessings with and for their local and wider communities. As missionaries, married couples can witness Gospel values in their daily lives and be harvesters.

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 St Patrick's Hall, Ballarat from Wednesday evening December 14 - Sunday, December 18. On display there will be in excess of 300 nativities from over 40 countries. Opening hours are Wednesday 6.00pm - 8.00pm, Thursday and Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm; Saturday 10.00am - 8.00pm and Sunday 9.00am - 7.00pm. The organizing committee would like to hear from anyone who is willing to loan a nativity scene for display, in particular cribs from other cultures, previous eras or which 'have a story' would be most welcome. Security is guaranteed. If you are able to assist please leave your name at the Cathedral office, ph. 5331 2933.

