



The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN



Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.



**Jesus Human Face of God,
You came to show us how to be more
fully human in our giving to an unjust world.
Free our ears to hear Your Word,
and stir our hearts to love with compassion and reconciliation.
Jesus, Human Face of God,
hear our prayer.**

We wonder

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. THESS 5:16

Advent is a four week season of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and it always has a theme of looking towards the future coming of Christ at the end times. One of the prayers of the early Church which is linked with the season of waiting and longing, was the Aramaic word 'MARANATHA', which means 'Come Lord'. Use this prayer often this week as one way to begin preparation for Christmas.



Another way to bring Christ's coming into the family home is the custom of the Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet, and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles may also be used. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it is blessed by a parent.

The word 'Maranatha' could be used as part of the blessing.

The lighting of the candles may fittingly be included as a part of the evening meal.

(Light three candles on the Advent wreath.)

This week we light three candles in the Advent wreath. We are reminded that the ancient peoples longed for someone to come to them and give them hope for a better way to living. We are reminded of our own hopes and longings as we prepare for Christmas.

3rd Sunday of Advent - JN 1:6-8; 19-8

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Ponder

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it to 'enlighten and re-new' us.

What word or phrase stands out for me as I read this text?

What invitation is this text offering me?

What troubles me about this text?



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Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.

Third Sunday of Advent, 16-17 December 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Arsenio Tuazon
Pastor Emeritus: Fr. John Dupuche

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

120 Oban Road, Ringwood North 3134

Phone: 70369395

Email: Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.holyspiritparish.org.au

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, closed Mondays

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE (Wednesday to Friday)

Jacinta Bibby jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au

PARISH SECRETARIES

Ruth Frangeskakis ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au

Jenny Philp jenny.philp@cam.org.au

HIGH SPIRITS COORDINATOR

Elma Gama

PARISH HOSTESS

Mary Yeo

MASS TIMES: Wednesday & Friday 9:15am
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 9am & 5pm
1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—Holy Spirit

Duncan Arendse —9876 1103

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Secretary ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au

FETE COMMITTEE

Adam Stone (Chairperson) - fete@holyspiritparish.org.au

PARISH OF ST GERARD AND ST ANNE

St Gerard's: McCulloch Street, Warrandyte 3113

St Anne's: 54 Knees Road, Park Orchards 3114

Phone: 7064 3922

Email: ParkOrchards@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte

PARISH SECRETARY

Kerry McGowan

Office Hours:

TUES	1.30pm to 3.45pm
WED	1.30pm to 3.45pm
THURS	11.30am to 3.45pm
FRI	12.30pm to 3.45pm

Masses:

Tuesdays	9am St Gerard's Warrandyte
Sundays	10:30am—1st Sunday of the month @ St Anne's, every other Sunday at St Gerard's.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—St. Anne's

Michael Edmonds—9876 1533

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST—RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Fin Maher, Peter Marangos, Brian Tierney, Maria Toffolo, Michael Sully, Terri Windridge, Wendy Pearl, Pat Cahill, Patricia O'Sullivan and Augusto Cimino

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK: Stella & family, Sean Hill, Valerie Mason, Adrian Ness, Carol Vallance, Chris Neate, Edna Danelutti, Helen, Justine, Christian Heskett, Will Laussen, Kerry McIntyre, Lyn Read, Heather Doy, Evelyn Reinecke, Melanie Saba, Arthur McConnell, Penny Mifsud, Patricia Higgins, Sharon Cass, Christine Iezzi, Kellie Nagle

Readings this week: Isaiah 60:1-2,10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Word, Spirit Magazine and "Spirit Extra" are available online at www.holyspiritparish.org.au

Holy Spirit Parish Vision

At Holy Spirit Parish, we are an inviting community inspired by the Holy Spirit; welcoming everyone to worship, grow, belong and serve together as Disciples of Christ.



Holy Spirit is a child safe parish. At Holy Spirit we hold the care, safety and well being of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.

Christmas Celebrations at Holy Spirit

Everyone is invited to join in our celebration
of the birth of Christ.

Reconciliation Service

7:30pm Tuesday 19th December at
St Anne's Church, Knees Rd Park Orchards

Christmas Eve

24th December

5:00pm Children's Mass, Holy Spirit Church

7:30pm Mass, Holy Spirit Church

10:30pm Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel

Christmas Day

25th December

9am Mass, Holy Spirit Church

Children are encouraged to come dressed
as Angels, Shepherds, etc.

Carols will be sung before each Mass,
please arrive early!

We need volunteers for decorating the Church
and various roles at all Masses.

New helpers especially welcome!

If you have never been involved before, we would love to meet you and
will make sure you are well prepared for your task.

Anyone interested in helping make it happen, please contact
ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au or ring on 70369395.

Collection Notice For information on the Parish's policies regarding information collection and privacy please
refer to: www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Collection-Notice

MEMORIAL MASS FOR ANN POELSMA

There will be a Memorial Mass celebrated for Ann Poelsma on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm in the Chapel. Ann was a teacher at Holy Spirit School for many years and also contributed much to our Parish life. We still use the "Baby Jesus" she made every year at Christmas! All are welcome to come along.

Arrangements in January.

Please note: the office will be "closed" from 4pm Friday 22 December 2023 to Tuesday 9th January. All phone messages and emails to the parish office will be monitored and responded to as quickly as possible.

Fr Arsenio will be taking a short break during January. Fr John will celebrate the weekend Masses.

Wednesday morning Masses will not be celebrated during January. Friday morning Masses (9:15am) continue throughout the holiday season and January.

Wishing everyone a peace filled joyous Christmas!

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

- Chief Advisor
- Creatives Officer, Parental Leave Contract

Parish Positions

- Parish Secretary - St Christopher's Parish, Syndal.
- Pastoral Worker - St Jude's and St Simons Parish, Scoresby and Rowville
- Pastoral Worker - St Andrew's Parish, Clayton South

Other Positions

- Marketing & Engagement Manager, Newman College

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

[Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](#)

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at hadmin@cam.org.au

SUNDAY 5PM MASS IN THE CHAPEL

Please note that the last Sunday 5pm mass for 2023 will be on Sunday 17th December. Sunday 5pm masses will resume after the Christmas/New Year holiday period on Sunday 4th February 2024.



"Thank you to all who contributed to our "bumper" double edition of The Spirit magazine. We hope you enjoy it! Please take a copy to deliver to anyone you know who would like to catch up on parish news. Help us fulfill The Spirit's mission of outreach. Thank you".

To read the Spirit online please follow this link: <https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/The-Spirit-Magazine>

Christmas Volunteers needed!

The Liturgy Team are looking for volunteers for Christmas Masses. Sign up sheets are on the table at the rear of the church. Please consider how you can help and sign up for a wonderful experience. As the old saying goes "many hands make light work". We are always looking for new people to join the Liturgy committee, so this may be a good time to consider joining the team! Contact the Parish Office on 70369395 or email ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au if you have any questions.

COMBINED PARISHES PENITENTIAL SERVICE & INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

7:30pm Tuesday 19th December, St Anne's Church
ALL WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO COME!



EVENTS THIS COMING WEEK - 18th-25th December 2023

MONDAY	7.00 pm St Vincent de Paul Meeting (last one for the year), Mary Bresnan Room
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	9.15 am Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel 6.00 pm Rosary via Zoom 7.00 pm Memorial Mass for Ann Poelsma, Holy Spirit Chapel
THURSDAY	7:30pm Choir, Holy Spirit Church
FRIDAY	PARISH OFFICE CLOSES TILL TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024 9.15 am Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel
SATURDAY	6.00 pm Vigil Mass, Holy Spirit Church
SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.00 am Mass, Holy Spirit Church ALSO CHRISTMAS EVE 5.00 pm Children's Mass, Holy Spirit Church 7.30 pm Family Mass, Holy Spirit Church 10.30 pm Mass, Holy Spirit CHAPEL
Monday	CHRISTMAS DAY 9am mass, Holy Spirit Church

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 23rd-24th December 2023

Mass Coordinators:

6.00 pm: Kevin O'Callaghan

9.00 am: Tina Toomey

5.00 pm: Resumes 4th February 2024

Lectors:

6.00 pm: Vin Dwyer

9.00 am: Jay de Graff

Welcomers:

6.00 pm: Volunteer

9.00 am: Tina Toomey

Ministers of Communion:

6.00 pm: Maureen & Terry Taffe

9.00 am: Don & Jocelyn

Tea and Coffee: **9.00 am:** Ann Fantin & Emma D'Aristotle

Holy Spirit Web Site - www.holyspiritparish.org.au:

Stay in touch with our parish website.

- "News, Events": ref menu
- "How we stay connected", online resources such as Masses, Prayers, Newsletters, Next Zoom: ref home page

Parish Database Update Please remember to advise the parish staff of any changes to phone and email details so we can update our database via email to Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au or phone 7036 9395.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH ZOOM ROSARY

Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm—Meeting ID: 631 950 8706 Passcode: 2p7ssZ

Hosted by Ambrose & Philomena Cornelio

Prayer requests may be emailed to Ambrose: acornelio@connecteast.com.au for inclusion weekly.

Charismatic Prayer Group Resumes Tuesday 6th February 2024.

Tuesday Meditation Tuesdays @ 9:15am in the Holy Spirit Chapel (not during School holidays). Please contact Len on 0401 519 727 if you have queries. **Resumes Tuesday 6th February 2024.**

On the Journey this week: Fr William Loh asks: have you ever felt like someone crying out in a spiritual wilderness? Mother Hilda has a prayer tip that will put love into the world right now. Plus, Fr Tony Percy says we have this magnificent question put to John, "Who are you?" in today's Gospel, and that's a question for us too. Darren McDowell has an Advent reflection on searching for happiness, and Pete Gilmore ponders who is in the manger. Plus, more great music! Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Celebrant:

Dear Friends in Christ. During this time of Advent, may we grow in faith and confidence that the Lord will come to us, leading us out of any darkness in our lives into the glorious light of God's Kingdom of Justice, Peace and Joy.

Reader:

We pray that we may never lose faith in God's loving presence with us, no matter what crisis, doubt or trial we may be struggling with.

LORD HEAR US.

That the transforming fire of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts through our baptism and confirmation may burn brightly in our lives and transform us more and more into children of hope and light.

LORD HEAR US.

We give thanks to those members of our Parish Family who give so generously of their time to enable us to shine Your light in our community: our Parish Pastoral Council members, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, Liturgy Team, Mass Coordinators, Lectors, Ministers of Communion, Welcomers, those who prepare Tea and Coffee and to the many others who volunteer their time in one way or another to our Parish. Bless them all in abundance with Your grace.

LORD HEAR US.

We pray for all people throughout the world imprisoned unjustly or held captive in their own countries by military regimes or forced to live in refugee camps; that God will sustain them and that their cries for freedom will be heard.

LORD HEAR US.

We pray for the sick, frail and elderly people of Holy Spirit, especially those not able to be with us during this holy Advent/Christmas season; that they will experience God's peace and love at this time.

LORD HEAR US.

We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Fin Maher, Peter Marangos, Brian Tierney, Maria Toffolo, Michael Sully, Terri Winbridge, Wendy Pearl, Pat Cahill, Patricia O'Sullivan and Augusto Cimino.

May they rest in the loving arms and peace of Christ.

LORD HEAR US.

Celebrant:

Loving God, Your saving grace embraces all people in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and brother. Hear these prayers that we make to You through Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION: Third Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said:

1 “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.

10 “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 “For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1.47-48, 49-50, 53-54 (*R. Isa 61.10b*)

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

47 My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed. **R.**

49 For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **R.**

53 The Lord has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
May your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters,

16 rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything;

21 hold fast to what is good;

22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;

and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord

Alleluia, Alleluia
The Spirit of the Lord now upon me
has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia

GOSPEL

John 1.6-8, 19-28

*Among you stands one whom you do not know,
the one who is coming after me.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7 He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
8 He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.
19 This is the testimony given by John
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem
to ask him, "Who are you?"
20 He confessed and did not deny it,
but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."
21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"
He said, "I am not."
"Are you the prophet?"
He answered, "No."
22 Then they said to him, "Who are you?
Let us have an answer for those who sent us.
What do you say about yourself?"
23 He said,
"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as the prophet Isaiah said.
24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.
25 They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing
if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"
26 John answered them, "I baptize with water.
Among you stands one whom you do not know,
27 the one who is coming after me;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."
28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan
where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

