



The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN



Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.

Fourth Sunday of Advent 18-19 December 2021



God of our waiting,
We light this candle to remind us that the birth of Jesus is imminent.
We pray that you may deepen our spirit of joy
so that our hearts will be open to warmly welcome your Son,
Jesus, into our lives, into our families
and into the world.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.

This week we can bring the mystery of Christ's coming into our lives by using the Advent wreath and candle lighting ritual again.

In your prayer, give honour to Mary and Joseph for the way they cooperated with God's plan.

Highlight the significance of the name 'Emmanuel' that Jesus is truly "God with us"



Advent and Christmas are times of waiting, preparation and celebration.

God is coming to us as Jesus; as the Messiah that was promised.

Jesus is with us today, with His spirit in love.

'COME LORD, SON OF DAVID, SON OF GOD'

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David. Matt 1:18-24

Try to be intuitive to God's voice this week. What is being communicated to you at this time in your life?

ADVENT GOSPELS

4th Sunday of Advent – Luke 1:39-45

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

REFLECTION: God's word is the focus in Luke's Gospel – God keeps His promises. Mary believed in the spoken word of God. The Word is among us.

We see God revealed in surprising ways – He came in the least of all clans, born into poverty and became a refugee. We need spiritual eyes to see God, graciously hidden in our midst.

THE MARY CANDLE

Today we honour Mary's role in our Salvation: She gave Jesus to the world.

Among our many Advent traditions is that of the Mary Candle - A white candle tied with blue ribbon - which stands witness to Mary's many months of expectancy and hope. In your home you might also light a Mary Candle as an added reminder of your hope in Jesus, the light of the world.

MARY'S PLACE IN OUR HERITAGE:

Pregnancy and birth are among the most common experiences of life - yet almost every pregnancy is extraordinary. We think of our Mothers who are expecting, and today too, of many Mothers who have lost their babies. Like all mothers, Mary experienced the hope and expectation of her new child along with great physical and lifestyle changes. She was also on the threshold of a unique relationship with her God.

WHAT DOES MARY MEAN FOR US?

Firstly, Mary was human. She accepted God's call, but she still struggled with the meaning of much that she experienced. It is clear that faithfulness does not mean an easy path, free of doubt and struggle.

Such example is relevant today in a world of many changes and challenges.

Secondly, it is also an appropriate time to acclaim the place of the feminine in our Church, as Mary exemplifies; the place of care and constant support, the willingness to remain faithful in times of trauma as well as times of joy.

In a world that is thankfully growing in the recognition of the place of the feminine, we of the Church can look to Mary's response as a source of inspiration.



The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN



Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.

Fourth Sunday of Advent 18-19 December 2021

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 9am-4pm, closed Mondays

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Elma Gama

PARISH HOSTESSES

Mary Yeo and Kerry O'Leary

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—Holy Spirit

Duncan Arendse —9876 1103

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Secretary ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au

FETE COMMITTEE

John Cilia (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: 9876 1509

Fax: 9876 6179

Email: ParkOrchards@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm, closed Mondays.

PARISH SECRETARIES

Ana Saro

Tuesday & Wednesday

Kerry McGowan

Thursday & Friday

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—St. Anne's

Michael Edmonds—9876 1533

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH PHONE NUMBER

Please note we have transitioned to the NBN

phone number of **70369395** permanently.

Please delete the old numbers from your phone directories. They are now disconnected.

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

Readings, Prayers of Intercession and a Gospel reflection are included in the word, which is available from the parish web site:

www.holyspiritparish.org.au/The-Word-Newsletter

Recorded Masses available at: www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Online-Resources

Important information, Spirit Extra, the Spirit Magazine and other Parish matters are available on the website:

www.holyspiritparish.org.au

PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE DETAILS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE: 70369395

Email: ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au

Please contact us if you have any enquiries

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST—RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Wendy Pearl, Terri Windridge, Michael Sully, Friday Voytenkoff, Don Price, Sr. Vianney Hatton, Leo Grasby, Geoffrey Keaton, Andrew O'Dwyer, Justin & David Crowe, Patrick O'Sullivan, Augusto Cimino, Rod Dailey, Bruce Peck, Mick McLachlan, Finlay Maher and Giovanni Fraraccio,

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK: Ben Lobo, Angela Damora, Warren Darbyshire, Stella & family, Pauline Curlis, Sean Hill, Valerie Mason, Dominique, Paul Sanderson, Kerry O'Leary, Adrian Ness, Dennis Price, Enio Bordignon

Readings this week: Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

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

Dear Parishioners,

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

Christmas Masses will be celebrated at 5pm, 7:30pm & 10:30pm on Christmas Eve and 9am on Christmas Day.

PLEASE NOTE: with easing of restrictions allowing all parishioners to celebrate together, the planned 11am Mass for "Vaccination Status Unknown" has been cancelled.

From 26 December, Weekend Masses will be celebrated on Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 9am.

QR check will be required. NO BOOKING REQUIRED

As Fr Arsenio will be taking some leave, Weekday Masses will not be celebrated during January.

You will need to bring your mobile phone to all masses to use the QR code system. If you do not have a phone, or your phone does not work with the QR system, there will be a welcomer on duty to assist.

Please arrive early to ensure you register and are seated well before Father is ready to commence Mass.

All Masses will continue to be celebrated under guidelines, which have been approved by Archbishop Comensoli.

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

The restrictions are as follows:

- **QR check in on arrival.**
- **Masks must be carried.**
- **Sanitize your hands on arrival.**
- **Sanitise your hands as you approach Father for communion.**

Communion during covid-19 at this time may only be taken by hand.

For those who might like to read the Archdiocesan Guidelines for parishes, they can be found on the CAM website: melbournecatholic.org/covid-19-guidelines

**COMBINED PARISHES PENITENTIAL SERVICE
& INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION
7pm Tuesday 21st December, St Anne's Church Park Orchards
ALL WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO COME!**



Collection Notice

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

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.

EVENTS THIS COMING WEEK - 20th-26th December 2021

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

9.15 am Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel
7.00 pm Rosary via Zoom

THURSDAY

8:00-9:00 pm Choir, Holy Spirit Church

FRIDAY

9.15 am Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel
5.00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
7.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass
10.00 pm Carols followed by 10.30 pm Mass

SATURDAY

9.00 am Christmas Day Mass

SUNDAY

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
9.00 am Mass, Holy Spirit Church

HOLY SPIRIT ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 26th December 2021 (Boxing Day)

Web: www.cam.org.au/ringwoodnorth/Parish-Groups/Parish-Rosters

Mass Coordinators:

6.00 pm: 9.00 am: Silvio Volombello

Lectors:

6.00 pm: 9.00 am: Sharon Hipwell

Welcomers:

6.00 pm:

9.00 am:

Tea & Coffee: 6.00 pm: 9.00 am: No Tea or Coffee

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

Daily Mass Books 2022 are available for \$25. Please contact Jenny: 70369395
jenny.philp@cam.org.au if you would like to get a copy.



HOLY SPIRIT RAFFLE RESULTS

Congratulations to our winners in the 2021 Holy Spirit Fete Raffle:
Thanks to the raffle coordinator Kathryn and everyone for your support.

1st prize Abbey Clements 7782
2nd prize Adam Stone 8513
3rd prize Jennie Wilkinson 0709
4th prize Sarah Kuyken 6915
5th prize Geoffrey Eastman 0021



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH ZOOM ROSARY
Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm
Meeting ID: 631 950 8706 Passcode: 2p7ssZ
Hosted by Ambrose & Philomena Cornelio

Prayer requests may be emailed to Ambrose: ambrose_cornelio@hotmail.com for inclusion weekly.

Christmas Eve 5pm Mass.

Young musicians and singers invited to join us providing music for the 5pm Children's Mass.

One practice 45 minutes before mass. 4.15pm Friday 24th December.

Please feel free to join our young singers and musicians. Contact Maree 0411 750 462 if you'd like music or words before hand otherwise just turn up early.



Holy Spirit Parish 50th Anniversary Celebration 27th March 2022 – Spread the Word

Our parish – our community - will be fifty years old next year 2022. We are planning a celebration on Sunday 27 March 2022. We want this to be a wonderful, joyous coming together of all those who are, or have been a part of this wonderful community.

For now, we would like you to spread the word about this upcoming event when you catch up with old friends or past parishioners during this festive season. Also, let them know that we will be seeking people's stories, anecdotes, remembrances of special occasions, photos etc, and to start thinking about them.

We would like everyone to contribute, including those who may not have held any official role, or been part of any of the parish groups - those go-to people who always said yes when asked to assist.

We will advise details of where contributions can be sent to later.

Please get in touch with us on hsparish50@gmail.com if you would like to assist with planning, or if you have any questions.

Holy Spirit Parish Anniversary Team

Holy Spirit 50th Anniversary Celebration Conversation Cards



Cards are available now to write today and place in the return box, or to take home for other family and friends that you will be catching up with over the Christmas season.

If you can't do cards, email your stories: hs50@holyspiritparish.org.au, write or post to the Parish House. We can scan most things.

What to write? Any, or all, of the list below, and anything else you can think of!

Approximate dates of your time in parish, any office held, or group you belonged to.

Memories of good times or bad

Your funniest memory, the people you remember and why?

What does/has Holy Spirit mean to you?

Thank you for helping to make this celebration a joyous memory of our past for our future parishioners.

On the Journey this week:

Fr Chris Sarkis' gospel reflection. Mother Hilda says God is always with us in our life now, despite our failings. Plus, the Spirit of Christmas at the end of a pandemic year, three reflections from Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ, Selina Hasham, and Cathy Jenkins, on the blessings encountered during this year. Deacon Josh Clayton on rejoicing this Christmas, and more great music for Advent!

Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Please note that Tuesday evening's Charismatic Prayer Group which is held in the Chapel 8-9.30 pm will resume next year on Tuesday 1st February 2022.

PARISH DATA BASE UPDATE

Please remember to advise the parish staff of your current phone and email details so we can update our database. You can either return the data sheet sent to you or email: Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au
Thank you.



Holy Spirit Parish 50th anniversary



Come and Celebrate 50 Years of Spirit
Sunday 27 March 2022
11:00 AM Celebration Mass
BYO lunch

It is a time to enjoy viewing photos and videos of
times past and reminisce on the good times!
And most importantly catch up with old friends
and meet new ones.





We proclaim a crucified Christ
Gal 2:20

16 December 2021

Dear People and Clergy of the Archdiocese,

Religious Discrimination Bill 2021

My prayerful greetings to you in the Lord.

I recently wrote to you about a bill before our State Parliament – the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* – that sought to restrict the freedom of religious organisations in Victoria. Regrettably, the bill passed earlier this month after being rushed through our Parliament.

This unbalanced law imposed on people of faith, only adds to a steady decline of religious freedom in Victoria. It unfairly targets and undermines the ability of faith organisations to confidently manage employment matters according to their mission. More about the bill and our concerns can be found at: www.melbournecatholic.org.au/religiousfreedom

On a national level, we have also had the introduction of the *Religious Discrimination Bill 2021* in our federal Parliament. While not perfect, I welcome the bill because it will provide basic human rights protections for Australians of all faiths to express their beliefs.

All Australian citizens, regardless of their religious belief or activity, should be able to participate fully in our society. They must be entitled to the equal and effective protection of the law and should not be discriminated against on the basis of their religious belief or activities in public life.

Significantly, given our situation in Victoria, the federal bill includes provisions to protect the ability of religious organisations to hire people who share their faith and values. Because what is being tabled is a modest and positive proposal for protection from religious discrimination, I hope both houses of Parliament will offer it safe passage without reduction. It is important that the federal bill attracts bipartisan support to ensure an enduring legacy for laws that help prevent discrimination against people because of their religious faith.

The bill has been referred to two federal Parliamentary committees, who will be consulting with organisations and individuals over the coming weeks. Conscious of the time of year, with the Christmas feast approaching, may I encourage you to do whatever you can to express your support of the federal *Religious Discrimination Bill* and also your concerns about the diminishment of religious freedom more locally in the State of Victoria – with our federal representatives in Parliament. Now, more than ever, there is a need to provide people of faith with protection under the law.

We are fortunate to live in a democratic society where we have the right and responsibility to advocate for fair and just laws. I encourage you to exercise this freedom. Information about how to take action on this issue is attached on page three.

I would also like to take the opportunity to express my prayerful unity with you this Christmas Season. It has been a challenging and difficult year, and I have been saddened that I have not had the opportunity to meet with you more, had normal circumstances allowed.

I pray that the peace of the Christ-child may renew you with his boundless love this Christmas and that the coming year be full of many blessings and a renewal of hope and faith.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Jesus

Gift of love & hope
for our world



CHRISTMAS SEASON 2021

Tuesday 21 December:

**7:00pm Combined Parish Penitential Service at St Anne's,
Knees Rd, Park Orchards**

Christmas Eve:

5:00pm

7:30pm

10:00pm Carols followed by Mass @10:30pm

Christmas Day:

9:00am

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our services.

Come home to Christ this Christmas.

Holy Spirit Parish

120 Oban Road Ringwood North



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Dear Friends in Christ. During this time of Advent, may we be ready to recognize and welcome the Lord, who leads us out of any darkness in our lives into the glorious light of God's Kingdom of Justice, Peace and Joy.

We pray that we may never lose faith in God's loving presence with us, no matter what the circumstances of our life may be. Lord hear us.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for our priests and bishops, that like Mary, they might believe in the promise made to them by the Lord and deepen their trust in God's sustaining presence in their lives. Lord hear us.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

That we may be people of faith like Mary and Joseph, withholding any hasty judgements about ourselves and others, and trusting that in due course, the grace of God will unfold in our lives. Lord hear us.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for all new parents and those awaiting the birth of a child; that they may welcome with joy God's action in their lives and nurture the gift of life entrusted to their care. Lord hear us.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for the bereaved who mourn the loss of family members and friends at this time; that they may be comforted in their sadness and experience healing and peace through the loving care of others.

Lord hear us. **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

We pray for the "Take the Way of the Gospel" journey, turning to our loving God with a new depth of trust and conviction. May we travel this path with compassionate and humble hearts, come to know the Holy Spirit moving within and among us and so be transformed. Lord hear us.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

For those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:

Wendy Pearl, Terri Windridge, Michael Sully, Friday Voytenkoff, Don Price, Sr. Vianney Hatton, Leo Grasby, Geoffrey Keaton, Andrew O'Dwyer, Justin & David Crowe, Patricia O'Sullivan, Augusto Cimino, Rod Dailey, Bruce Peck, Mick McLachlan, Finlay Maher and Giovanni Fraraccio.

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

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

St. Alphonsus Liguori



REFLECTION 4th Sunday of Advent

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

FIRST READING

Micah 5.2-5a

From you, O Bethlehem, will come the ruler of Israel.

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The Lord says to his people:

2 “You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judea,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred
shall return to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure,
for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

5 and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80.1ab+2, 14-15, 17-18 (R.3)

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

2 Stir up your might,
and come to save us. **R.**

14 Turn again, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
have regard for this vine,

15 the stock that your right hand has planted. **R.**

17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right,
the one whom you have made strong for yourself.

18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name. **R.**



SECOND READING

Hebrews 10.5-10
I come to do your will.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

5 When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;
6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
7 Then I said, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book,
‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God.’”
8 When Christ said,
“You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings
and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),
9 then he added,
“See, I have come to do your will.”
He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
10 And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the servant of the Lord:

let it be done to me according to your word.

Alleluia

G O S P E L

Luke 1.39-45
*Why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?*

A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

39 Mary set out and went with haste
to a Judean town in the hill country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting,
the child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry,
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfilment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

The gospel of the Lord.