



# The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN

Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.



**Jesus, Light of the World**

**You come to bring us hope and courage.**

**You are a radiant reflection of the Source of All Being.**

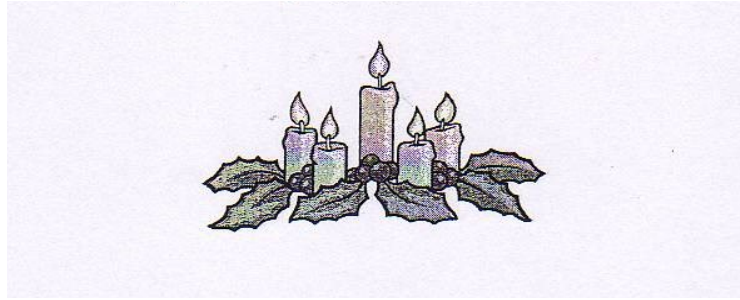
**May we be inspired to stay alert and see with new eyes the signs of hope  
around us, and to see traces of your presence in our everyday lives.**

**Jesus Light of the World,  
hear our prayers**

# We watch

*Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. MARK 13:33*

**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 two candles on the Advent wreath.)*

This week we light the second of the Advent candles. We are reminded of the way John the Baptist called people to prepare the way for Jesus and we light these candles as a sign that we, too, are praying and preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus anew this Christmas.

## **2nd Sunday of Advent - Mark 1:1-8**

*The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:*

*Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.*

*And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'*

## **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 renew' 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?

Re read the Gospel. From the above, which is the one word or phrase that stays with you?



# The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN



Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.

**Second Sunday of Advent, 9-10 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](mailto:Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au)

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, closed Mondays

## **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE (Wednesday to Friday)**

Jacinta Bibby [jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au](mailto:jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au)

## **PARISH SECRETARIES**

Ruth Frangeskakis [ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au](mailto:ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au)

Jenny Philp [jenny.philp@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **FETE COMMITTEE**

Adam Stone (Chairperson) - [fete@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:ParkOrchards@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte](http://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:**

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

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—St. Anne's**

Michael Edmonds—9876 1533

**IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST—RECENTLY DECEASED:** Ann Poelsma, Stephen Cass and Domenica Mafri

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Steve Laussen, John Patrick, Judy D'Arcy, Antoni and Stefania Wierzbicki, Giovanni Fraraccio, Barbara Carach, Peter Skuskavnieks, Sally Conway, Bernie O'Callaghan and Josie O'Sullivan

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK:** Angela Damora, 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 40:1-5,9-11; 2Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8**

The Word, Spirit Magazine and "Spirit Extra" are available online at [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://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 19<sup>th</sup> December at  
St Anne's Church, Knees Rd Park Orchards

## **Christmas Eve**

24<sup>th</sup> December

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

7:30pm Mass, Holy Spirit Church

10:30pm Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel

## **Christmas Day**

25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au) or ring on 70369395.



## Something to think about this Advent, a new way of understanding incarnation

An extended concept or interpretation for the 4 weeks of Advent – seeing the 4 weeks as “deep incarnation” which includes, of course, the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus the Christ, but also takes the understanding of incarnation much further, both back and forwards in time. This concept is something the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea have written about in their website. You may like to think about it and see how expansive this understanding of the incarnation of God is.

The description of each of the 4 weeks, in this interpretation, are as follows:

Week 1: God’s incarnation in the creation of the cosmos, the birth of the universe

Week 2: God’s incarnation in the creation of the Solar System we live in

Week 3: God’s incarnation in the person of Jesus the Christ – In Jesus, God’s presence became more obvious and believable in the world. “By his incarnation (the Christ) inserted himself not just into our humanity, but into the universe which supports humanity. The presence of the incarnate word ...shines at the heart of all things”.  
(Teilhard de Chardin)

Week 4: God’s incarnation in each being: human and other than human.

*For more information on this way of understanding Advent, search for Sisters of Mercy Cosmic Advent wreath*

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

- Finance Administrator - St Simon's Parish, Rowville
- Parish Secretary - St Christopher's Parish, Syndal.
- Pastoral Worker - St Judes 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](mailto:hadmin@cam.org.au)

## SUNDAY 5PM MASS IN THE CHAPEL

Please note that the last Sunday 5pm mass for 2023 will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Sunday 5pm masses will resume after the Christmas/New Year holiday period on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Spirits 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](mailto:ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au) if you have any questions.



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTIONS 2023.

“The Sign” is an 80 page booklet containing short, spiritually rich, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024). There are just a few copies now available. A donation for the booklet would be appreciated.

**EVENTS THIS COMING WEEK - 11th-17th December 2023**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY** 9.15-10.00 am Meditation, Holy Spirit Chapel (last one for the year)

**WEDNESDAY** 9.15 am Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel  
11.30 am Baptism Information Meeting, Mary Bresnan Room  
6.00 pm Rosary via Zoom

**THURSDAY** **LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS AT HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL**  
7.30 pm Choir Practice, Holy Spirit Church

**FRIDAY** **LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS**  
9.15 am Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel

**SATURDAY** 6.00 pm Vigil Mass, Holy Spirit Church

**SUNDAY** **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
9.00 am Mass, Holy Spirit Church  
5.00 pm Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel (last 5pm Mass— resumes Sunday 4th February 2024)

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 16th-17th December 2023**

**Mass Coordinators:**

**6.00 pm:** Sean Collins **9.00 am:** Don Schroder **5.00 pm:** Volunteers

**Lectors:**

**6.00 pm:** Ambrose Cornelio **9.00 am:** Sharon Hipwell

**Welcomers:**

**6.00 pm:** Marita North-Coombes **9.00 am:** Don Schroder

**Ministers of Communion:** **6.00 pm:** Barry Ward **9.00 am:** Silvio & Ada Volombello

**Tea and Coffee:** **9.00 am:** Del Cin Family

**Holy Spirit Web Site - [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**On the Journey this week:** Fr Chris Sarkis says only prayer, sacrifice, and graced personal holiness of life can straighten what has become twisted and buried in the moral and human turmoil. Mother Hilda says God is like the freezer repair man, checking the gas of grace that keeps us ticking over. Plus, Fr Tony Percy says Mark's Gospel prologue sets the scene for the remainder of his Gospel, Fr John Nguyen OFM Cap says on the eight hundredth anniversary of the creation of the nativity scene, choose to see the living Babe of Christmas, like Saint Francis did 800 years ago, and Br Lewis Harwood says the scripture readings this coming week contain a simple message: move out of the wilderness and return to the land of hope. Plus, more great music! Visit [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

### ***Celebrant:***

*In anticipation of the promised coming of God's Kingdom of justice, peace and love, we open our hearts and minds to the grace of God, bringing to the altar our prayers for our needs and the needs of the world.*

### **Reader:**

For our priests and bishops; that through their life and ministry, your Church might fulfil its vocation to bring peace and honour to all through integrity and devotedness.

**LORD HEAR US.**

For our parish community; may we open our hearts to Jesus and allow him into every aspect of our daily lives.

**LORD HEAR US.**

For children and adolescents dealing with illness and adversity in their lives. Give them courage and faith that the Lord will guide them through difficult times.

**LORD HEAR US.**

For those experiencing loneliness leading up to Christmas. Help them discover companionship and a sense of belonging amongst the community at this time.

**LORD HEAR US.**

We pray that we may have the faith to prepare the Lord's way, even when the world seems filled with darkness and violence.

**LORD HEAR US.**

As we come to the end of another school year, we pray for our teachers, beloved students and their families that they have a safe, happy and holy Christmas. We wish our Grade 6 students every blessing as they prepare for their next journey in their education at secondary school. May the Lord bless them all.

**LORD HEAR US.**

We pray for those who have died recently Anne Poelsma, Stephen Cass and Domenica Mafrici, and those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Steve Laussen, John Patrick, Judy D'Arcy, Antoni and Stefania Wierzbicki, Giovanni Fraraccio, Barbara Carach, Peter Skuskavnieks, Sally Conway, Bernie O'Callaghan and Josie O'Sullivan.

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

**LORD HEAR US.**

### ***Celebrant:***

*Blessed are you, God and Father, for giving us all good things. Hear these our prayers that we might one day share in your everlasting glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **REFLECTION: Second 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 40.1-5, 9-11

*Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85.8ab+9, 10-11, 12-13 (R.7)

**R.** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.

9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R.**

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. **R.**

12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Peter 3.8-15

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

8 Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;

15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.



## GOSPEL ACCLAMAT I O N

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia  
Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia

## GOSPEL

Mark 1.1-8  
*Prepare the way of the Lord.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

- 1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”
- 4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside  
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,  
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan,  
confessing their sins.
- 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair,  
with a leather belt around his waist,  
and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- 7 He proclaimed,  
“The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to stoop down  
and untie the thong of his sandals.
- 8 I have baptized you with water;  
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The gospel of the Lord.

