



# St Patrick's Parish

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**Administrator: Rev. Fr. Francis Denton**

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**Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob**

**Pastor Emeritus: Fr John Dupuche**

**Pastoral Worker: Mrs Debbie Edwards**

12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)**

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54**

##### **R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

##### **R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

##### **R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

##### **R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

#### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

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.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of  
prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything -  
hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.  
May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and  
may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and  
body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has  
called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

#### **Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**General Intercessions**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**



**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

**Recently Deceased:** Joe Di Battista,  
 Anne Moroney Marco Tassiello (Iserna, Italy)

**Anniversaries:**  
**Sick:** Joan Keuken, Angela Del Guidice, Lynne Fleming, Kim J, Cherie, Izaak, Anne-Maree Sullivan, Peter & Aurelia Di Ciero, Tony Cunningham, Claudette & Gilbert, Florens, Kate, Tim Lawson, John Hopper, Cassandra, Mary and John Hamilton, Carmel O'Healy, Michelle, Pat Robb, Robert Taylor, Nancy Leonard, Brian Walsh, Michael Paola, Barbara De Vincentiis, Emma, Wayne, Julian Monteiro, Dolly Maher, Salvacion Santos, Ricky, Giovanna Zammit, Michael Jordan, , Catherine Fields, Sam Lawson, Geoff, Grace Quinlivan, Bianca, , Mary Ovans, Stephen, Gael Holliday, Rob Meridith, Bill Meyer, Cathie & Jose Grima, Rose Roberts, Roman De Angelis, Tedi & Santi, Stephen Wakeham, Gwen Weaver, June, Jenny Goh, Paul Payne, Peter Bedford

**Reconciliation** By appointment  
**Anointing of the sick** By appointment  
**Marriages:** Please give at least six months' notice.  
**Baptism:** Please contact parish office for details.  
**Parish office** - Please call 0448 658 418  
**Pastoral worker** - Please call 0448 664 731  
**St Vincent de Paul** - If assistance is required please contact 1800 305 330 Mon-Fri 10.00am – 4.00pm  
**Care group** Contact Parish Office 0448 658 418



We are a child safe Parish

**Special collection for  
 St Vincent de Paul this weekend.**

**Link to weekly mass**

A reminder that Fr Francis' Sunday Masses are recorded each weekend and are available on St Brigid's You Tube Channel each Sunday morning. Fr Francis records Masses from St Brigid's, St Patrick's and St Aloysius churches. The link is accessible through St Brigid's Healesville's website, <http://www.stbrigidshalesville.cam.org.au/> or by searching St Brigid's Healesville on You Tube, or using the link: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>



**Mass Bookings**

Bookings are essential to ensure our compliance Booking are through Trybooking

Masks must be worn at all times and all sanitising, social distancing and contact tracing rules need to be followed.

**If you don't have access to a computer, or need assistance with TryBooking, please call Sharon on 0448 658 418.**

Please use below link and follow the prompts.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNOMD>

At this stage we are still unsure of the numbers allowed for Christmas Masses. Bookings for Christmas will be opened up once we have more information.

**Mass Times are as follows:**

<b>Lilydale</b>	
Tuesday	9.15am
Wednesday	9.15am
Friday	9.15am
Saturday	9am Latin Mass 6pm Vigil
Sunday	10.30am
<b>Healesville</b>	
Thursday	9.15am
Sunday	8.30am

**WEEKLY THANKSGIVING**

**Weekly Pledged Amount to Parish (thanksgiving only)  
 \$1404.50**

Thanksgiving received week ending 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Thanksgiving Collection \$	734.00
Presbytery \$	485.35
Restoration \$	60.65

**Short Fall \$670.50**



St Vincent de Paul Society

VICTORIA

good works

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2020**

This year's Christmas Appeal is "A Christmas Like No Other", with a focus on the ongoing impact that COVID-19 is having on Australian families who previously never needed help. As the long term repercussions of the pandemic come to light, we expect the pressure on individuals and families to worsen. We expect more people than ever will turn to Vinnies to help them get through these difficult times. Your generous donations will go a long way to help Vinnies help these families.

Donations can be made either online at [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) or by calling 13 18 12, with provision to nominate the Lilydale Conference as the recipient of the donation.

There are also envelopes in the Foyer with a "Vinnies" stamp that can be placed in the Parish Mail Box.

Any non-perishable food donations can be left in foyer by weekend of 12/13 December.

preparations and/or implementing absurdly incoherent work-place protocols to have the energy to even notice the "Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020" which is set to effectively criminalise basic Christian beliefs around gender and sexuality found in the first chapter of Genesis and beyond. If passed this Bill will ensure that any Christian (or otherwise) who expresses his/her beliefs about the Biblical understanding of sexuality, could be prosecuted, fined and even sent to prison for up to ten years. The legislation is simultaneously so extreme and so ambiguously worded that one has the sense of having arrived in the Orwellian land of "Thought Crimes." This Bill quite literally prohibits the mere expression of certain personal convictions. For example the Bill specifically targets the 'crime' of praying with/for people with gender/sexuality struggles. It applies not only in public but even in the privacy of one's home. If passed the most basic libertarian notions of "freedom of speech" and "freedom of religious belief" will be effectively abolished and criminalised in Victoria. While this is the last thing any of us wants to be doing this time of the year, I would encourage you to read the Bill that is before the Victorian Parliament and consider writing to the Premier and/or your local Members of Parliament to address your concerns. Archbishop Peter Comensoli has boldly called upon all the clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to draw the attention of the Catholic faithful to this pernicious and unjust legislation, and to make it clear that this is unacceptable to people of faith.

Below is the link to the Archbishop's letter:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/media/2020/statement-re-change-or-suppression-conversion-practices-prohibition-bill-2020/07Dec20-STATEMENT-Conversion-Therapy.pdf>

Monday 7 December 2020

Statement re Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020 Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne

Last weekend I wrote to the clergy of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne expressing concerns regarding a new government bill, tabled in Parliament.:

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143bi1.pdf>

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143exi1.pdf>

The bill purports to protect vulnerable people from harm through what has been called 'conversion therapies'. In faith communities, 'conversion' has a meaning of positive change, upholding human freedom and dignity.

I encourage every action to protect people from harm. A bill that protected people would have my full support.

The problem is this bill doesn't merely do what it claims. It targets prayer, and appears to impose silence on

**Christmas Mass Times**



**Christmas Eve Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

Children's Nativity Play and Carols: 4.30pm  
Christmas Eve Family Mass: 5.00 pm. In the community centre

**Midnight Mass**

Mass at 12 am in the Church

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Day Mass 10.30am

Bookings are essential.

**Annual Collection for Melbourne Overseas Mission**

This year you can donate to the Melbourne Overseas Mission Collection online through their website at: MOM annual appeal donation link:

<https://bit.ly/CDfpayMOM>

**Victorian Bill Set to Criminalise Christianity**



The chaos of COVID-dysfunction (this strikes me as a more apt descriptor than 'COVID-normal') has conveniently presented the Victorian Government with the opportunity to attempt to

push through legislation which will have far-reaching consequences for Christians and all people of faith. Most people are too busy with end of year Christmas

people of faith from sharing their beliefs in an open, honest and faithful way. The bill imposes on the right of parents and children to speak plainly and honestly with one another. It robs adults from seeking whatever guidance and pastoral support they seek concerning deeply personal matters.

No government has an interest in what a person prays for, who they pray to, who they pray with, or what conversations happen between members of a family. Despite affecting religious communities in such a direct way, faith groups were afforded little consultation and were not shown a draft of this bill before its publication. It is not clear that parents in Victoria have been told clearly that this bill affects what they can say and how they say it with their own children.

This looks like a dramatic over-reach of the state into family life, private matters, pastoral contexts of conversion, prayer and spiritual accompaniment.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has a range of questions for which we seek resolution – some of those questions are attached to this statement.

The ultimate outcome of this bill may not actually be to protect anyone who is vulnerable, but to silence people of faith from expressing a view.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne

Fr Francis Denton



#### **From Debbie's Desk**

A letter to our Grade 6 children, who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and graduate this week

Dear Grade 6s. Congratulations to you and to your families as you wave goodbye to

us and head off to conquer new horizons next year! No doubt Mum and Dad will be buying you new shoes, all those new exercise books, and a whole new range of dinky pens and pencils to equip you for your new adventures. They will most likely set aside the money to buy new shoes for you towards the end of summer, planning to allow your feet to grow over the holidays before choosing just the right sized school shoes to take you through at least most of next year. I know the ropes! Mums and Dads are constantly looking ahead, planning the best way to provide for you and to keep you safe. So on the eve of your final day at primary school, some of you will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the greatest gift you will receive this Christmas, and the completion of the journey your parents chose for you at your Baptism. You will be fully confirmed Catholics, ready to face the world. You will grow out of your year 7 school shoes. The exercise books will be filled and binned, or kept in a box under the bed so that you can bin them yourself when you are 37. And the pencils and pens will slowly disappear. But the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will remain with you forever.

We light the pink Advent candle this week, the third candle. It is also the second last candle. In the

sombreness of the purple candles of preparation, there is a spark of joy as the pink candle is lit. Our waiting is nearly complete. The readings at Mass this weekend all speak about joy, the joy of history holding its breath in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our saviour. We look backwards in time to remember the birth of Jesus, but to the people of his time, life had gone on as usual. The angels' light had faded, Jesus was taken to Egypt, the animals ate the hay that he lay on. Yet the world was changed forever in the moment of Jesus' birth, and no doubt there was a bunch of shepherds who told everyone they knew of their joy at seeing our saviour, Jesus, lying in the manger. The greatest of prophets, John the Baptist, cried out in his eagerness to let others know of what had happened in Bethlehem 30 years earlier. Those with hearts open to God heard his voice. Eventually Peter, his friend, acknowledged to Jesus himself the words "you are the Christ, the one who was to come in to the world".

As you, our Grade 6s, go off into the world on your new adventures, we ask God to help each of you to do so as Jesus' witnesses. For those receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, you are sent out to take the joy of the Gospels to others. Like the shepherds who told those they met of the miracle of Jesus' presence among us, or John the Baptist, who called others to change their lives, or Peter who understood that Jesus, his mate, was actually the Christ, the saviour of the world, you will become his herald. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit bring us that wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgement, that sense of reverence, awe and wonder in God's presence in our world, that allows us to be his witnesses, and we don't have to use words to do so. The way we live says it all. The Holy Spirit gifts us with the courage we need to reveal Jesus to our world through our own lives, as temples of the Holy Spirit. A true Christmas miracle for every day of the year! Congratulations to you all!

#### **Online Advent Seminar**

Parousia Media are hosting this great online series of talks for Advent. They run daily and are FREE! Since we've missed the opportunity for a parish based program this is great alternative that you can watch at your convenience. Special thanks to Mary Dowling for the tip off!

Welcome to the Advent Pilgrimage – Bill Synder and Charbel Raish

<https://watch.parousiamedia.com/programs/bill-and-charbel-welcome-videomov-10ea29?autoplay=true&categoryId=65394>