

First Sunday of Advent

27 November 2022



*Readings for
this week:* Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14a
Matthew 24:37-44



*Readings for
next Sunday:* Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12



Liturgy Jottings

The Season of Advent

The history of the Season of Advent reveals great variations in its origins, length, meaning, symbols and practice. First arose in the Gallican churches about the fourth century from a sense of piety rather than from the liturgy. It was marked by fasting and penance. The season varied from three weeks to 40 days. When Rome adopted Advent 200 year later Advent varied from one fast day to about a week. Pope Gregory the Great (591-604) set Advent to be four weeks of preparation for the Feasts of Christmas, differentiating it from Lent. The Eastern Churches marked these days as preparation for the mysteries of the incarnation and epiphany and is marked by joy and festivity. The Ambrosian rite has six Sundays of Advent. The Syrian and Syro Malabar Rites have a "Season of Annunciation" of 3-4 weeks with Christmas within or outside the season.

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Looking at the Readings

The Readings today for the first week of Advent could very much fit into the liturgy of last Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King. They proclaim the coming of the eternal kingdom of God and of our necessary readiness. The Response to the Psalm is identical: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Psalm 121, though this week verses 6-9 are added (see below). Isaiah shares his great vision of the coming of the Lord with us. He combines Temple and Mountain as a symbol of the new kingdom and the Lord's presence. We prepare for the Peace of the Kingdom by our action of turning instruments of war to implements of farming. See the image on left: a blacksmith is hammering swords into pruning forks. St Paul adds to the allegory by encouraging his friends to be armed with the light of Christ. Our armour is Christ himself.

After the warnings in the Gospel to stay awake and not knowing the hour of the coming of the Lord, we are encouraged to be calm in our waiting and joyful in our life and faith.

Prayer for the 1st Week of Advent.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!
For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.


Quote from Pope Francis

We see that the liturgical year is for us the possibility of growing in our knowledge of the mystery of Christ, immersing our life in the mystery of His Death and Resurrection, awaiting his return in glory. This is a true ongoing formation. Our life is not a random chaotic series of events, one following the other. It is rather a precise itinerary which, from one annual celebration of the His Death and Resurrection to the next, conforms us to Him, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Desiderio Desideravi* (2022) n 64.

On the Lighter Side

Christian Advent calendars start on the first Sunday of Advent and contain daily prayers and good deeds. Whereas the supermarket Advent calendars start on 1st December regardless and supply toys, chocolates, etc. for the consumer. Q: Which dangerous cookie was found in the advent calendar? A Ninja-bread man. Q: How did the elf on the shelf feel when he couldn't get chocolate from the advent calendar? A: Foiled!



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Giuseppe Ceniti, Cesare Mercuri
	Our sick and their carers	Peter Marshall, Vito Prinzi

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sat 6:00 pm 3 rd December	Carol Coulston	Shelia Gregg	Joan Webster	Joyce Caifa Delphi Hamilton	Not Required	Mary Gale
Sun 10:30 am 4 th December	Rob Miller	Ann-Marie Nihill	Domelina Phelan	De Lai Family	Debbie Worm	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 11 th December	Debbie Worm	Ross Kelly	Bernie Maher	Marg Normington Nita Basile	Steve De Lai	T Smith Trish Warnett
Sat 6:00 pm 17 th December	Carol Coulston	Peter Crombie	Shelia Gregg	Pat Anderson Doreen Corrigan	Not Required	Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 18 th December	Rob Miller	Rita Fairchild	Connie Serra	Barry & Jan Lowe	Anna Ciavarella	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett

Il St. Rosario per il Mese di Dicembre sara il 9 di Dicembre alle ore 2 pm nella St. Mary's Hall. Si prega di portare in piatto per condividere.

The Rosary for the month of December will be held on the 9th December at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. Please bring a plate to share.

Ladies Cuppa and Chat

Everyone is welcome to come along to the Ladies Chat and Cuppa

Date: Wednesday, 7th December

Time: 2pm.

Venue: St Mary's Hall

Please bring you own snacks.

Two Week Mass Timetable Commencing 28th November

Weekday Mass

Mon 28th November No Mass
Tue 29th November No Mass
Wed 30th November 9:15 am Mass
Thu 1st December No Mass
Fri 2nd December 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 3rd December 11:30 am Reconciliation
6:00 pm Mass
Sun 4th December 10:30 am Mass

Weekday Mass

Mon 5th December No Mass
Tue 6th December No Mass
Wed 7th December 9:15 am Mass
Thu 8th December No Mass
Fri 9th December 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 10th December No Mass
Sun 11th December 10:30 am Mass

Reconciliation Saturday 7th January 11:30 am

Christmas Mass Timetable

Advent Reconciliation

Wednesday 14th December at 5:30 pm – followed by a Parish BBQ

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December
Carols commencing at 5:30pm,
Mass at 6:00pm

Christmas Morning

Sunday 25th December
Mass at 9:30am

Can you help?

We are looking for someone who can volunteer to clean the Parish House and St Mary's Hall.

We are also looking for someone who can help look after the garden at St Mary's Hall.

If you can help please call Mary on 0484 332 397

Thank you

Preparation & Consultation Meeting for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council to be held in Tatura

On 27 April 2022 Bishop Shane Mackinlay announced a year of Preparation and Consultation for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC). Dr Chris Cotter (Sandhurst Director of Mission and Pastoral Life) and Ruth Lawlor (Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator) will be conducting a

Preparation & Consultation Meeting at Sacred Heart Tatura, on Sunday 11th December, after the Mass the meeting will run for about 30-45 minutes.

At the meeting you will:

- find out about the SMPC
- participate in a 'Listening and Dialogue' process (as used in the first phase of the Plenary Council)
- provide feedback and ask questions which will contribute to the establishment of a structure that will support synodality in our diocese.

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Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst Theology Scholarships.

Designed to support the mission formation of parishioners through formal theological studies, especially those with or who are seeking pastoral leadership roles in the diocese of Sandhurst.

Are you interested in studying theology or spiritual leadership in 2023?

- Scholarships are available for Sandhurst parishioners to study online post-graduate courses in theology at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne
- 50% of the tuition fees will be reimbursed (full cost: credit \$2,882, audit \$650).
- You may study for credit towards a Master's degree/Graduate certificate/Graduate diploma or for audit.
- If you have not studied at a tertiary level before you can take advantage of the "Professional Attainment" pathway.
- Scholarships are also available for the year-long Spiritual Leaders Program at Heart of Life, Melbourne (50% of full cost reimbursed: full cost \$4,472 with tertiary credit)

First Friday and Saturday Devotions

Friday 2nd December.

Saturday 3rd December –First Saturday Devotions in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at St Augustine's, Myers Flat, beginning with Adoration at 8:00am with Confession available, Mass at 9:15am and Rosary at 9:45am.

Pope Francis intentions for December are that catechists will witness to the Gospel with courage and creativity. "Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit," reads the prayer intention, promoted by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

"Can we make room for Jesus if we are already filled to the rafters?" FR CHIMA OFOR

This week on the Journey (Ep 486)

On the Journey this week:Fr Chima Ofor's Gospel reflection for Advent week 1 – Stay Awake Keep Watch! Mother Hilda wonders who consoles God when he has his heart broken. Extra Advent reflections from Fr Sean Cullen and Darren McDowell, Doug Black from Men Alive on men's spirituality, isolation, floods and the Refuel strategy, and more great music!

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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT national tour by Colin Buchanan

Sunday 4th Dec at 4.30pm at Connect Church Bendigo, 35 Solomon St, East Bendigo

Contact michelle@colinbuchanan.com.au for more information. Tickets can be purchased via <https://colinbuchanan.com.au/blogs/shows>

Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice

Christmas Cards

Packs of 10 Mejellian Christmas Cards are available for purchase in the Narthex.

The cost is \$10 per packet.

Formation for Mission Officer:

An exceptional opportunity exists to be an integral member of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Life Team.

For more information, a copy of the position description and how to apply go to the Employment Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst website

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/positions-vacant/formation-for-mission-officer>

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00 p.m. 28th November 2022.

Mental Health & Well Being Hub

It's Common to feel like you're struggling with the stress and worries. That's why there's FREE help available now for every Victorian who needs it, at your local Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub. If you need a chat or get some emotional support Wellways are here to help.

For help you can call 03 5822 8600 or 1300 375 330.

Sandhurst Advent Leaflets

The Sandhurst Diocese Advent leaflets for reflection and prayer for Advent 2022, draw upon the Advent Year A Sunday readings and the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Plan 2022-2023 (SMPC Plan).

The leaflets in digital form will be available online to view or download from Tuesday 22 November via the Sandhurst Diocese News page at: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Individuals and groups are invited to pray, to reflect, to discern, as they discover insights from the Advent Scriptures that may shine additional light for personal faith journeys and for our preparation as parish communities and as a Diocese, for our Diocesan Assembly to be held in Shepparton on 15 February 2023.

Copies of the leaflets are available in the Narthex – if the supply runs out please let Mary know that more are required.

Themes for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year A

<https://young-catholics.com/3697/1st-sunday-of-advent-year-a/>

The readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year A speak of readiness for the coming of Jesus Christ. In the first reading we hear that God will establish His kingdom and we must be ready to walk in the light of God. In the second reading Paul warns us to be awake. In the gospel Jesus warns us not to be unprepared, as people were in the days of Noah. This is a time to prepare for our Lord to come into our hearts.

- Be awake
- Be ready
- Be prepared to work
- Things which are temporary vs permanent
- Walking in the light

More Thoughts for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year A

Preparations for Christmas often involve putting up decorations, purchasing gifts, and making food. But these are not the only things we need to do to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. We need to prepare our hearts also.

The gospel tells us that we must think ahead. Eating and celebrating and being with families are not bad things. But if our hearts are not turned toward God, then we have missed the point.

So as we prepare our homes and our hearts for Christmas, we must remember that the Lord is in our midst. He is in the child who doesn't have any Christmas presents. He is in the homeless man who has nowhere to go for Christmas. So to prepare for Christ, we need to make preparations for him in all of the places where we will encounter him during this holy season

Reflection Questions for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year A

- What is my focus as I prepare for Christmas?
- Do I see Christ in the people around me, particularly in the marginalized?
- What else do I need to be ready for the coming of the Lord?

Parish Website

<http://www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au>



Like our parish Facebook page. Lots of important links and information is found there.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura.

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616, 03 5824 1049, e: tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
The presbytery office is open on Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm