

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday 17 December 2023



Readings for this week: **Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28



Readings for next Sunday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Romans 16:25-17
Luke 1:26-38



Liturgical Jottings

Blessings 3 – Christmas Tree

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays which depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle which symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until Epiphany. The Christmas tree may be blessed on or before Christmas during a celebration of the word of God, or during Morning or Evening Prayer. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day. *Book of Blessings 1570-74*



Looking at the Readings

Joy, Praise, Happiness and Witness are the key words of the First Reading the Response, the Second Reading and the Gospel. Would we take these words home in our minds and hearts we have captured the sense of the advent celebration. To express the Lord's year of favour and joy, Isaiah seeks new words to convey the great enthusiasm of the people. He uses similes of an overjoyed bride and groom, the fresh and fruitful earth and people leaping for joy. While he prophesies the first coming of the Lord we may justly interpret his words for the second coming of the Lord. We have the sense of now but not yet, he has come but yet to come.

The response to the reading is not a psalm but the words of Mary from Luke's Gospel – the *Magnificat*. It is a hymn of thanksgiving to God for his mighty deed for Mary and also and especially for the poor and lowly. The Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice," sets the tone, the name and the colour of the day's liturgy "*Gaudete*". Rejoice and be happy, Christmas is a week away!

Advent Prayer

O God, most high and most near,
you send glad tidings to the lowly,
you hide not your face from the poor;
those who dwell in darkness you call into the light.
Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts,
and form us into a humble people, that, at the advent of your Son,
we may recognise him in our midst
and find joy in his saving presence.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Amen.


Advent Customs: Misas de Aguinaldo

In the Philippines, Advent is celebrated by attending nine Masses in a row. These are known as Misas de Aguinaldo – or Gift Masses. They begin on December 16 and end on Christmas Eve. After every Mass, families celebrate together by eating traditional desserts and sweets. Maligayang Pasko is how Filipinos would wish you a Merry Christmas!

On the Lighter Side

Q: What does a chemistry teacher call a bunch of monomers in December? A: An Advent Polymer.



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Robert Borrelli, Filomena Villani, Lucia Villani, Antonio & Veneranda Martino, Nicola & Maria Teresa DeAngelis
	Our sick and their carers	Margaret Collins, Marg Normington

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 18 December

Weekday Mass

Mon 18 December No Mass
 Tue 19 December No Mass
 Wed 20 December 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 21 December No Mass
 Fri 22 December 9:15 Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 23 December No Mass
 Sun 24 December 10:30 am Mass
 5:30 pm Carols
 6:00 pm Mass

Weekday Mass

Mon 25 December 9:00 am Mass
 Tue 26 December No Mass
 Wed 27 December 9:15 am Mass
 6:00 pm Reconciliation
 Thur 28 December No Mass
 Fri 29 December 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 30 December No Mass
 Sun 31 December 10:30 am Mass

Reconciliation

Sat 6 January 11:30 am

Last Week's Plate Collection and Envelops

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of our Parish. May God bless you always.

Last week's collection was 568.95

Christmas Mass Timetable

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December
 Morning Mass at 10:30am
 Carols commencing at 5:30pm,
 Mass at 6:00pm

Christmas Morning

Monday 25th December
 Mass at 9:00am

News Year Eve

Sunday 31st December
 Mass at 10:30am

Safeguarding our Parish

The Sandhurst Diocese Safeguarding Officer, would like to see up set up a Safeguarding Team. Debbie Turvey has kindly offered to be Sacred Heart Parish Safeguarding Officer, but we do a team as they say many hands make light work. If you are interested please email tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Disability Contact Coordinator

The Sandhurst Diocese Disability Contact Coordinator, would like to a contact in Sacred Heart Parish for a person who is willing to be our Parish Disability Contact. If you have a passion to help those with a disability in our Parish and are happy to take the lead on disability inclusiveness in Sacred Heart Church please email tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Rosters

Sunday 24 December – 10:30AM

Commentator: – Debbie Worm
 Reader: – Mary Gale
 Gospel Procession: - TBC
 Gifts: – TBD
 Special Minister: – TBC

Sunday 24 December – 6PM

Commentator: – Carol Coulston
 Reader: – Shiela Gregg
 Reflection Reader: Mary Gale
 Gospel Procession: - Peter Crombie
 Gifts: – J Caifa & TBC
 Special Minister: – Connie Sera, Anne Hutchison

Monday 25 December – 9:00 AM

Commentator: – Mary Gale
 Reader: – Debbie Worm
 Gospel Procession: - John Keane
 Gifts: – TBA
 Special Minister: – TBC

Sunday 31 December – 10:30AM

Commentator: – Carol Coulston
 Reader: – Mary Gale
 Gospel Procession: - John Keane
 Gifts: – Shelia Gregg & TBC
 Special Minister: – Debbie Worm

Christmas Gifts – Fundraiser

Looking for a beautiful gift that will help raise money for the parish?

We have a selection of handmade Rosary Beads, Single Decade Rosary Bracelets, Rosary Stone Beaded Bracelet, Gemstone Bracelets, Bed Bracelets, Christian Medallions, Craft Pens, Beaded Mobile Phone straps and Christmas Earrings.

Make a Thankful List for Advent

<https://young-catholics.com>

Your kids might have made a list of some things they'd like to receive for Christmas. So as an advent activity, encourage them to make a list of all the things they already have which they are thankful for.

Introducing the concept of gratitude during the holiday season can be a powerful way to instill a sense of appreciation and contentment in your children. While it's natural for kids to focus on their desires and wishes, teaching them to recognize and be grateful for what they already have can help cultivate a positive mindset.

Farewell to Pauline & Dom

On behalf of Sacred Heart Parish we would wish Pauline Hindson & Dom Poppa all the best as they take on new ventures, in 2024.

Pauline has served as Principal at our school since 2017 and has done an amazing job, under her guidance has seen some major building projects to extend the school.

Dom joined our School in 2020 and has been Deputy Principal for past two years and this year has been looking after RE. Thanks to Dom's attention to details, all our school Masses and Sacramental Programs have run very smoothly.

Blessing for School Holidays

May God's blessing be with all our Students and Staff as they begin the school holidays. Give Your peace and your joy, To every girl and every boy. Help the teachers to enjoy the break, and prepare and plan for the new school year.

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 years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation

Bucket Collection for Fr John this weekend

Clergy And Seminary Announcements

Having received recommendations from the College of Consultors last week, I am pleased to announce a number of decisions relating to clergy and seminarians.

Clergy Appointments

As a result of priests moving to a new parish, several associated responsibilities are no longer practical, and I have made the following new appointments:

- Vicar Forane of the Goulburn Valley Deanery: Fr Jophin Joy ALCP/OSS (commencing 13 January 2024)
- Supervising Priest of the Rushworth Parish: Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ (commencing 24 January 2024)

'Come and See' Program

Abishek Mandanu and Anil Madanu, who I met during my recent pastoral visit to India, will undertake a three-month 'Come and See' program in the Diocese in early 2024. During this time, they will visit the seminary and several parishes to gain an experience of ministry in Australia. Following this, a decision will be made about whether they commence as seminarians for the Diocese.

New Seminarian

I have accepted Ryerson De Lai, from Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura, as a seminarian for the Diocese. He will commence formation at Corpus Christi College in February 2024.

I am grateful for the willingness of these priests and aspiring seminarians to make themselves available for service in the Diocese, and I ask you to join me in offering them your prayerful support.

Yours sincerely,
Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
Bishop of Sandhurst

Thank you to St Donato Committee

Sacred Heart Parish would like to thank the St Donato Committee for their generous donation towards the major works that we have to undertake to replace the Power Pole that supplies power to St Mary's Hall and the Convent.

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 1pm

Themes for 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

<https://young-catholics.com>

The readings for the 3rd Sunday in Advent Year B (Gaudete Sunday) encourage us to rejoice because our salvation is near. The first reading foreshadows the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one. The psalm is the Magnificat - "My soul rejoices in my God." The second reading encourages us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks. And in the gospel John the Baptist tells the priests that he is not the Christ, but that the Messiah is coming.

Witness to the Light: John the Baptist's role as a witness to the light, who is Jesus, is emphasized.

This theme highlights the importance of testifying to Jesus as the true Light who brings divine truth and life.

Identity and Mission of John the Baptist: John's clear denial of being the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet reflects his understanding of his own identity and mission. This theme illustrates the importance of knowing one's role in God's plan and staying true to it.

Humility in Service: John's declaration of unworthiness to untie Jesus' sandals showcases his humility. It teaches that true greatness in God's kingdom comes from recognizing one's own humbleness and the superiority of Jesus.

Preparation for the Messiah: John's role in preparing the way for Jesus underscores the theme of making oneself ready for the Messiah's coming. It calls for spiritual readiness and openness to receive Christ.

Reflection Questions for 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 speaks of rejoicing always, even in difficult times. Reflect on a time when you found joy in a challenging situation. How did this experience shape your understanding of joy as a Christian virtue?
- What does "pray without ceasing" mean to you in practical terms? How can you incorporate continuous prayer into your daily routine, especially during the Advent season?
- How can you cultivate a habit of gratitude, even in less-than-ideal circumstances? Discuss ways in which gratitude can change your perspective on life's challenges.
- In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist plays a crucial role as a witness to the light of Christ. How can you embody the humility and dedication of John the Baptist in your own life as a Christian?
- How do you interpret the concept of being a bearer of Christ's light in your community? Share examples of how you have witnessed or can witness Christ's light in everyday interactions.
- Reflect on a moment when Christ's light brought clarity or understanding to a situation in your life. How did this illumination transform your approach or attitude?
- Paul's call to holiness in 1 Thessalonians involves spirit, soul, and body. Discuss practical

Sandhurst Advent 2023 Leaflets

'The Way of Trust and Love' is the theme for the 2023 Sandhurst Diocese Advent leaflets, with Scripture readings, and passages from the writings of Pope Francis and St Therese of Lisieux, in honour of the Jubilee Year of St Therese of Lisieux, highlighting the simple way of trust and love St Therese implemented in her life leading to her Sainthood.

Copies are available in the Narthex and also online at the Sandhurst Diocese website
www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTMAS GLOBAL GIFTS CARDS

For family and friends who have everything they need, Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at
www.globalgifts.org.au

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ways you can engage in this holistic sanctification during Advent.

- Considering Isaiah's prophecy and its fulfillment in Christ, how does this narrative of promise and fulfillment influence your faith journey?
- How do the themes of joy, light, and continuous prayer in these readings interact to inform your understanding of the Advent season?
- Choose one aspect from these readings (joy, prayer, gratitude, being a light bearer, etc.). Can you create a personal action plan for incorporating it more fully into your life this Advent?

Happy 21st Ryerson

Last Sunday Ryerson, celebrated his 21st Birthday. On behalf of the Parish we wish him God's blessings for the year ahead.