



Readings
for this
week:

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6



Readings
for next
Sunday

Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18



Liturgical Jottings

Springtime of the Liturgy III

The sources of liturgy in the first four centuries include Scripture texts, early collections of prayers and a third group of writings from the Catechesis of Cyril of Jerusalem (347) his Mystagogia text (ca 400), Baptismal Catechesis of St John Chrysostom (386-398) though only discovered in 1955. Instructions and homilies of St Ambrose (Milan, 389-410) on the sacraments, liturgy and catechetical instruction. A very rich firsthand witness of the liturgy comes from of a fourth century nun. Etheria, a colourful Hispano-Roman Christian woman. She authored a detailed account of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land where she witnessed and recorded many of the liturgies, including Holy Week and Easter. These sources were sometimes controversial but always illuminating on the birth of Christian liturgy.



Focus on the Readings

Last Sunday's readings directed our attention to the second coming of Christ at the end of time, this Sunday we focus at his first coming. But not his coming as an infant born in Bethlehem, but as one coming as the Messiah. But he does not appear in the Gospel just yet. The way for his coming among use must be prepared. The Prophet's secretary, Baruch (see below) spoke of making the road clear and safe, flattening mountains and levelling the ground and providing shade on the road. John the Baptist makes full use of this prophetic image in his emphatic words: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

The first time I heard this in song was the opening lines of the musical "Godspell". It was chilling. It reached into the depths of my being. I can only imagine how the first witnesses to John's cry must have received it. Many people took his words to heart, they confessed their sins and went into the waters of the Jordan to be baptised. May we hear the awesome cry anew and really prepare our ears and hearts to hear "Godspell" (German for Good News) and experience that change on which the prophets insist.

The Book of Baruch

The Catholic and Orthodox Churches include this book in the canon of the bible, others may include it as a deuterocanonical book. Baruch is the faithful secretary of Jeremiah, the prophet, after the Exile. The book comprises five very different parts: an introductory account, a psalm of repentance, a hymn of instruction, a message of consolation, and the letter of Jeremiah. The Book of Baruch has the honour of revealing the profoundly religious soul of the Jews dispersed throughout the world.

Excerpts for the Synod 2024

The local Churches are asked to continue their daily journey with a synodal methodology of consultation and discernment, identifying concrete ways and formation pathways to bring about a tangible conversion in the various ecclesial contexts (parishes, religious institutes, movements of the faithful, dioceses, national bodies, groupings of Churches, etc.). The Document expresses awareness that the call to mission is, at the same time, the call to the conversion of each local Church and of the whole Church, in line with the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium. (nn. 9 & 11)

Quote of the Week

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

On the Lighter Side

A child asked: Why did John eat crickets and golden syrup?



 Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Ellie Kleindienst
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	

NEXT TWO WEEK'S ROSTERS

Saturday 14 December 6:00pm

Commentator: Carol Coulston
 Reader: Denice Bourke
 Gospel Procession: Mary Vraca
 Gifts: J Caiafa & D Hamilton
 Special Minister: *Not required*

Sunday 15 December 10:30am

Commentator: Debbie Worm
 Reader: Rob Miller
 Gospel Procession: Steve De Lai
 Gifts: Barry & Jan Lowe
 Special Minister: Connie Serra

Sunday 22nd December 10:30am

Commentator: Rob Miller
 Reader: Dean Filgate
 Gospel Procession: Sheila Gregg
 Gifts: D Corrigan & P Moroney
 Special Minister: Evert Worm

Thanks to all of our volunteers, we appreciate the support you give to your parish.

Three Week Mass Timetable

Week Commencing 11th December

Weekday Masses

Wed 11 December 9:15am
 Fri 13 December 9:15am (Yr 6 Graduation Mass)

Weekend Mass

Sat 14 December 6:00pm
 Sun 15 December 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Wed 18 December 9:15am
Wed 18 December Reconciliation 5:30pm
 Fri 20 December 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Sun 22 December 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Tue 24 December Christmas Vigil Carols 5:30pm
 Mass 6:00pm

Wed 25 December Christmas Day 10:30am

Friday 27 December 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Sat 4 January 6:00pm
 Sun 5 January 10:30am

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am
Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church
Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month at 5:30pm
Saturday evening Masses: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

Plate Collection and Envelopes

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of parish.

May God bless you always.
 Last week: \$ 673.60



Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. (except in January)
 All welcome.



Parish Reconciliation: Wednesday 18th December 5:30pm

Christmas Rosters There is a sheet in the Narthex for the rosters for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please put your name down if you are available to assist with the ministries. Thank you.

Baptism

We congratulate Elia Lagozzino, daughter of Vanessa & Gerald, on her Baptism last Sunday and welcome her into our parish and faith community.



May God bless you and keep you safe always.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS are Christmas Cards with purpose! Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty. By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card. **Pick up a catalogue at the back of the church, use the QR code or go to www.globalgifts.org.au**



John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. *Luke 3:3*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of the one reality of how God's plan has been revealed in Christ. This is revealed in every Mass and Sacrament we celebrate, and that Christ will be revealed in his glory when he comes again at a time we do not know.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Baruch who calls us "[to] ...wrap the cloak of integrity of God around [us]" so as to wear the crown of your glory.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you come among us now, as St Paul remembers those who "...have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present".

Response: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory, because you want all the world to "...see the salvation of God".

Response: Come, Lord Jesus.

MISA DI GALLO

Misa de Gallo Novena will be celebrated from 16th-24th December at 6.00am at St. Brendan's in Shepparton. Fr Uday will celebrate Mass on Wednesday 18th and encourage Kyabram and Tatura parishioners to attend.

Mass will be followed by breakfast in the Parish Centre behind the church. Please bring a plate to share.



LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL

Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability. Please help provide families with food, water, and medical care.



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1800 024 413

Photo: Caritas Lebanon



The Second Sunday of Advent resonates with the familiar and prophetic call of John the Baptist in the Gospel of Luke to prepare the way of the Lord. The value and necessity of listening has been named as one of the markers of synodality. It is also central to the journey of conversion that all undertake in choosing to follow the liberating way of Christ. How is God calling each of us to prepare to receive and share God's love and peace in this Jubilee year? Whose voices are we listening to, and what words of hope do we speak to ourselves, and into the lives of others?

The synodal way invites us, as Jesus did, to meet people where they are, as they are. We participate in making a way where sometimes, in people's woundedness, there might seem no way. Building reciprocal and respectful relationships, especially with those on the margins, prepares the way for mutual transformation. Every day a small and shining light of hope can be offered through faithful listening and accompaniment, building trust. God's saving Word, new every morning, is challenge, promise, and comfort as we walk humbly with people in our tears, and in our joys.

Advent is a time of joyful preparation, where we focus on God's love and our need to be spiritually ready for Christ's coming.

PRAYER

Lord, help us prepare our hearts for Your coming. Guide us to remove obstacles that keep us from You. Strengthen our love and faith as we journey together. Amen.

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 Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

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