



# CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

## First Sunday of Advent Yr B 3 December 2023

**Parish Priest: Fr Hien Vu**

**The Parish Office open hours are Tuesday - Friday 9am-4pm**

**Pastoral Worker:** George Thommana  
**Finance/Admin:** Monique Heckmann [Tue, Wed, Thur: 9am – 4pm]  
**Sacraments:** Contact Parish Office [Phone 03 9412 8493]  
**Parish Office:** 2-20 Fir Street, Whittlesea 3757  
**Postal address:** P.O. Box 221, Mernda 3754  
**Phone Number:** 03 9412 8493  
**Mobile Number:** 0448 101 401  
**Email:** [merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au](mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.christthelightparish.org.au](http://www.christthelightparish.org.au)

### Nazareth Centre, Mernda (St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754  
Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday 4pm  
Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30pm  
Sunday 8am and Sunday 10:30am  
Children's Liturgy EVERY Sunday 10:30am

### St Mary's, Whittlesea

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757  
Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am  
Confession/Reconciliation after  
Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am Mass.  
Weekend Mass: Sunday 10am

### St Mary's, Kinglake

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763  
Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:30am

### St Joseph's, Mernda

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754  
Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15am  
Weekend Mass: Sunday 5pm

We pray for those who have **died recently:**

And for those whose **anniversaries** occur at this time: Michael McGuire,  
Sr Dorothy Eveston

We pray for those who are **ill in our community:** Margaret Muldoon,  
Vincent Orchard, K.P Abraham, Indika Fernando, Rose Vaas, Lalaka Peiris,  
Carlo Carleo, Maria & Joseph Ah Kiau, Paddy Fitzgerald, Baselisa Malusu  
Gina Wherrett

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my  
soul, O my God.

In you, I have trusted; let me not be put  
to shame.

Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to  
shame.

**First Reading:**  
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

**Responsorial Psalm:**  
Lord, make us turn to you, let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:**  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**Gospel Acclamation**

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

**Gospel:**  
Mark 13:33-37

**Next week: Second Sunday Advent Yr B**  
First: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11  
Second: 2 Peter 3:8-14  
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

## A reflection...

Today we enter the season of Advent. It is a time of preparation, expectation, and prayerful reflection on the central mystery of our faith, that God has become one of us in Jesus. As we prepare once again to welcome Jesus into our hearts, we remind ourselves that He is already with us, and so at Christmas we celebrate his presence and strengthen the welcome that we offer to Him each day of our lives.

In today's Gospel St Mark tells us that Jesus exhorted His disciples to "stay awake" since they would not know when the time would come. Mark's community believed that Jesus would soon return to earth to gather up God's people, all of creation, and lead us home to God (the Parousia). The reality is that we have no idea when this might happen, but we have opportunities each day to allow Jesus to lead us closer to God. Through times of prayer, reflection, and silence, we remain alert (stay awake) to the presence of Jesus in the ordinariness of our daily lives, and the extraordinariness of God's many gifts.

Let us (me!) not be distracted too much by the twinkling Christmas lights, the shopping frenzy, the Christmas rush, holiday preparations and a variety of festive activities. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Chris Blake

## 'Weekly Quote'

**The Prayer of the  
Frog**  
by Anthony de Mello  
Page 60

When a friend visited the Spanish painter El Greco at his home on a lovely spring afternoon, he found him sitting in his room, the curtains tightly drawn. "Come out into the sunshine," said the friend. "Not now," El Greco replied. "It would disturb the light that is shining within me."

# Christmas Masses

**Christmas Eve, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm Mernda (Nazareth Centre)

8.00pm at Whittlesea (Anawim Centre)

12.00 am Midnight at Mernda.

All Masses on Christmas Eve to be preceded by carols commencing 30 minutes prior to Mass.

**Christmas Day, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

8.30 am Kinglake

10.00 am Whittlesea 10.30 am Mernda

**RECONCILIATION** .....Fr Ivo will be available after 9.15am morning Mass for reconciliation on the following dates:

*Tuesday 5 December St Mary's Whittlesea*

*Wednesday 6 December St Joseph's Mernda*

*Thursday 7 December St Mary's Whittlesea*

## New Church Building UPDATE

Next weekend Sat 9 and Sun 10 December we look forward to sharing an update with the community on our New Church Building .....

**By helping the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**, you will assist in two ways. At a local level, our members and volunteers will be able to offer assistance directly to families and individuals. At a broader level, you will be contributing to the large and varied network of short and longer-term support services for people in Victoria who require specialised care.

St Vincent de Paul told his followers there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive, and none so poor that they have nothing to give. Support for this Appeal will benefit recipients, and address poverty and disadvantage in our communities. At the same time, it is an endorsement of the concern and generosity of donors.

### ADVICE ON HOW TO DONATE:

- An envelope is on your seat – fill out and return to your Vinnies Member
- Alternatively, return your envelope and enclosed donation by post. Please mark your envelope with either Mernda or Whittlesea/Kinglake Conference
- You can donate online at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) or by phone at 13 18 12
- Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Thank you in advance.



### Our December Fundraising activities.....

This weekend raffle tickets will be on sale at Nazareth Centre for our Toy Raffle. The three prizes totaling \$390 in value will be on display this weekend at Nazareth Centre. The prizes will be on display the following weekend at Kinglake and Whittlesea. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The raffle will be drawn on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December and winners notified by phone.

**On Thursday, DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>** from 6pm to 8pm, we will have a stall at Bunnings Mernda's Christmas Night Market selling tickets for a prize donated by Bunnings as well as selling greeting cards, jewellery, craft items. We will also be promoting our Christmas mass times. Bunnings are also donating a prize for us to raffle on the night)

**And then on Saturday, DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>** – from 9.30 am - 2.30pm, we will again be manning a table at Bunnings Mernda, selling our Christmas Toy Raffle tickets and promoting our Christmas Mass Services. Please save these dates.

If you can assist with any of these activities, please contact either Liz Williams 0403 007 692 or Liz Blake 0407 832 296

**2024 Columban Calendars** are available to purchase for **\$10** from the back of church today!!

**Sacraments for Secondary School Children.....** If you wish to participate, please contact the parish office by no later than **FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER**. We will be conducting a special program early 2024, ensuring you don't miss out on the sacraments of Holy Communion in May and Confirmation in August.

**House Blessing Requests.....**If you would like to request a house blessing please email or text your details and a preferred day, date, and time to the parish office: [merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au](mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au) or [0448 101 401](tel:0448101401). Please allow enough notice to ensure we can accommodate all requests.

### Leaders and Readers.....

If you are a Leader/Reader, copies of the Sunday readings are available for you to take from the back of church. Look for the **BLUE** folder



### New CHURCH Building Account Details:

If you would like to make a Direct Deposit DONATION\* to the New Church Building account.

**BSB: 083 - 347**

**Acct No: 135 263 131**

\*Any donation made to this account is NOT tax deductible as we are a Not For Profit organization

### MINISTRY ROSTER: 9 / 10 December

[W] Welcomer [L] Leader [R] Reader [E] Eucharist [LT] Laptop

5:30pm [W] Lorel D, Trish B [L] Trish B [R] Andrea P [E] Sr Glenys [LT] Margaret S

8am [W] Ushmani F, Anthony F [L] Ajith D [R] Alessandro U [E] Roy J [LT] Roy J

10am: [W] John F, Alice A [L] Tracey K [R] Xanda B [E] Alice A [LT] Barry K

10.30am: [W] Silence M, Libano D [L] Paul N [R] Shawn D [E] Silence M [LT] Al and Choir

**Children's Liturgy:** Joyce M, Karen B

**NAZARETH CENTRE SET UP:** 4:30pm Saturday 9 Dec: Margaret S, Roy J, Ryan J

We are a Child Safe Parish. We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.



Christ The Light - News updates  
WhatsApp group



Join the CTL parish WhatsApp group for regular parish news updates. QR Code also available on the parish website [www.christthelightparish.org.au](http://www.christthelightparish.org.au)