



## CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

## Fourth Sunday Advent. Year B. 20 December 2020

**Parish Priest:** Rev Martin Ashe  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev Shymon Thekkekalathungal  
**Parish Secretary:** Margaret Stanford [Tues & Fri: 9am – 4pm]  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sandy Starbuck Tue, Wed, Fri [9401 6324]  
**Sacraments:** Contact Parish Office [9412 8493]  
**Finance/Admin:** Monique Heckmann Tue, Wed, Thur [9412 8493]  
**Parish Office:** 48 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda 3754  
**Postal address:** P.O. Box 221, Mernda 3754  
**Phone Number:** 9412 8493  
**Email:** [merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au](mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.christthelightparish.org.au](http://www.christthelightparish.org.au)

### Nazareth Centre

#### (St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754

### St Mary's

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757

### St Mary's

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763

### St Joseph's

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754

*We pray for those who have died recently:*

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Irma Trapani, Con Harte, Kuriakose Chacko, Oliver Cristiano

*We pray for those who are ill in our community:* Bernice Fitzpatrick, Joseph Buttigieg, David Buttigieg, Sajad Kolahdooz, Philomena McManus

#### **Entrance Antiphon:**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

#### **First Reading:**

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14,16

#### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5,27,29**

***For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.***

#### **Second Reading:**

St Paul to Rom 16:25-27

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I am the servant of the Lord: may his will be done.

**Alleluia!**

#### **Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

### **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

So many of our plans have had to be put on hold these last several months. Now as Christmas approaches and restrictions have lessened we have begun to make some of our own plans again. We are more comfortable and in control of these kinds of plans. Yet, we are aware that there are many circumstances and events that take place which we have no control over. Some we are happy to be part of and some do not please us, cause us to be afraid and to suffer. The present pandemic is but one example of this. In all of this the gift of our faith can and does play a part in addressing all that happens to us. It is to recognize that God's presence seeks to be with us and to guide us.

We see in the Gospel today an event taking place in the life of Mary that initially she has no control over. She is surprised by the dramatic event that takes place. God intervenes in her life through the Angel Gabriel. She is told of God's saving plan for our world and God choosing her to be the mother of the Son of God. We see how she is perplexed by how this could take place through her. The Angel makes her aware that she would conceive her child through the presence of the Holy Spirit. In her freedom Mary is asked to respond. Mary's relationship with God is such that she trusts in the Lord and the divine plan that she is called to be part of. She gives her life over to God humbly and simply saying 'yes' to being the mother of the Saviour.

In celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas, it is not only to call to mind this historical event it is also to recognize that each one of us is invited to be part of the joy of this event. Each one of us is called in the midst of the circumstances of our lives to play our part in the saving plan of God for our world. There is no situation that is outside of God's desiring to be with us to guide us. No matter what is taking place, whether it's part of our plan or not, it is to believe and trust that God also "speaks" to us. It is to believe that God seeks to give birth to his love and presence for our lives. Like Mary it is to say "yes" to what the Lord can be for us and what we can be for our world at this time.

**Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest**



**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.**

**LIVE STREAM MASS SUNDAY 10:30AM**

Can be accessed at the Home Page of the parish website.

[www.christthelightparish.org.au](http://www.christthelightparish.org.au)

Please note that the Mass remains on the website and is also available to watch at anytime on that day



**Parish Office Hours.**

During this time, the Parish Office is closed, however if you would like to contact the parish please call **9412 8493** and leave a voice message or email [merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au](mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au) and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible.



**ALL MASS LINKS are on our website—New Year's Day Masses, Friday 1st January**

**Nazareth Centre Masses at 8:30am and 10am, Trybookings from 9am Tuesday 22 December. Weekend Masses: Saturday 26 December through to Sunday 10 January, Trybookings from 9am Tuesday 22 December. Weekday Masses: St Mary's church Whittlesea Tuesday/Thursday (limit 35) or Nazareth Centre Mernda Wednesday/Friday (limit 80), you are not required to make a booking, however you will need to register at the door so please allow enough time to fill in your details prior to the start of Mass. There is no morning Mass on Thursday 24 December. Friday 25 December, Trybookings are open for Christmas Day Mass.**

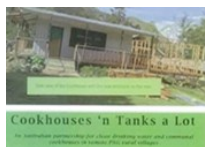
Parish Office Closure Christmas / New Year. The Parish office will be closed for the Christmas/New Year period from WEDNESDAY 23 December 1pm and re open TUESDAY 12 January 2021. If you need assistance with booking mass attendances during this time of closure please call the office prior to 23 December 9412 8493. Thank You

**NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST: My name is Jude Albert Johnson.** I was born and raised in Myanmar in a family of six where faith and Sunday Mass were important. The awareness of my vocation started during the middle-school, and it became serious during university. That murmur of my heart brought me to prayer asking, "Lord, where do you want to use me as your instrument?" After some years of serious discernment, I entered the seminary in Myanmar in 2008 and then joined the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2014. Through the joy and challenges of a priestly vocation, I am always reassured by the answer of Peter to Jesus: "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). I am very much looking forward to meeting with all of you and working together with you in the vineyard of the Lord. Fr Jude will join our Parish team on 20th January 2020.

**FACE MASKS during Mass**—Although it is no longer mandatory to wear a face mask indoors as long as 1.5m social distancing can be maintained, you are required to bring a face mask with you to Mass. We request that if you are singing that you put on your face mask. We are grateful for the cooperation demonstrated by our communities during these unprecedented times. Stay well!



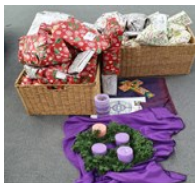
**Anne Rouge, 2019/2020 RCIA Candidate was Initiated into the Catholic Community** as Baptised, Confirmed and received the Eucharist during Mass at St Mary's Whittlesea. Anne has journeyed for just over 2 years in her quest to her goal to be baptised. Her patience, exuberance and constant expression of excited anticipation never wavered over these months of lockdown. She never missed a live streaming Mass. She has found a place where she feels she belongs and can't wait to come and celebrate Christmas with "my Parish, my other family." Make yourselves known to Anne when you see her next at Mass, she'll be there.



**The students at St Paul the Apostle, Doreen** on the Social Outreach Team have organised a fund raiser. They are selling sugar free Zooper Dooper ice blocks for \$1 each. They are raising money to provide water tanks for families in Papua New Guinea and to help families in need through St Vinnies. Their goal is to raise \$1,000.



**St Joseph's Mernda, year one students** have been learning about Our Common Home - Our Earth and how to be stewards of God's gift of the Earth to all humans. They looked closely at the letter from Pope Francis to all about our common home and things we can all do to care for it and ourselves. The students developed an initiative to recycle toys that are in excellent condition. Following their work about Frederic Ozanam - the founder of St Vinnies, they have donated their preloved toys. The Year One Students are very proud of their actions and being able to make a difference to our world and to make a difference to the world of others



**JESUS IS CHRISTMAS: CAROLS SPECIAL SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER, 7pm** [www.youtube.com/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/archmelb) or channel 44 on digital TV. This televised special is offered as a way to unite in song from the comfort of our homes. May these beautiful carols remind us of the gift of love and hope we all receive this Christmas: Jesus.

**The Parish Team joins Fr Martin Ashe in wishing you and your families the blessings and joys of the Christmas Season. Fr Shymon Thekkekalathungal, Sandy Starbuck, Monique Heckmann, Margaret Stanford.**

# Christmas Masses

**If you wish to attend a Christmas Mass**

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL – DUE TO THE LIMITED SEATING ALLOWED.**

**All TRYBOOKING links to the Masses can be found below. If you require assistance or have a problem with your booking, please call the Parish Office on 9412 8493 and leave a voicemail message. Limit of 6 per booking.**

**Bookings open SAT 12 Dec 9am and close THURS 24 Dec 10am**

\*\* If your preferred Mass time is fully booked please consider booking a different Mass time or location

## Nazareth Centre, St Joseph's School Mernda

**Christmas EVE - Thursday 24th December**

5.30pm - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNNYE>

7pm - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNNYO>

9pm - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNNYP>

**Christmas DAY - Friday 25th December**

9am - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNNYR>

11am - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNNYU>

## St Mary's Anawim Centre, Whittlesea

**Christmas EVE - Thursday 24th December**

6.30pm - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOAL>

8.30pm - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOAN>

**Christmas DAY - Friday 25th December**

10.30am - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOAR>

## St Mary's Church, Kinglake

**Christmas DAY - Friday 25th December**

8am - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOAU>

9am - <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOBA>



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** .....Many hands will be needed at our Christmas Mass Celebrations. If you are able to assist with any of the following please contact the parish office with your name contact number and mass you are attending, on 9412 8493 or merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au If you can assist with any of the following SET-UP, SANATISERS, NAME MARSHALL, READER, EUCHARIST MINISTER or LAPTOP OPERATOR we would be grateful for your help.

