



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH
DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Second Sunday Advent. Year B. 6 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 6322]
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
Website: 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: Veronica Mary O'Brien

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vivien Sguerzi, Joseph Buttigieg, David Buttigieg, Sajad Kolahdooz, Philomena McManus

Entrance Antiphon:

R O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading:

Second letter of St Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Next week: Yr B 3rd Sunday Advent

First: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Second: St Paul to Thess 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Now that Christmas is on the horizon, in this year of the pandemic, there is a greater sense of looking forward to celebrating this special feast. There is more activity in our lives as we continue to connect with more people and prepare for Christmas day itself. At the same time our Advent season guides us to recognise the deeper meaning and significance to our Christmas celebration. It is to be aware of the needs and hopes of the human heart. This is especially so when we can sense incompleteness and dissatisfaction within us. At a deeper level of the human heart, we can be lost. We can be so immersed in the Christmas rush that we find ourselves skipping over those deeper longings that also need to be listened to with a receptive heart.

Our scripture readings speak to the depths of our human need. A voice is heard, full of consolation and hope filled. It is the voice that speaks of the Lord's coming to be close to us with his mercy and kindness. The One who is proclaimed comes to rescue us and renew our lives. John the Baptist proclaims and gives witness to the Lord's coming.

In the busyness of this time, it is to have the courage to take this opportunity to be still and hear the voice of John saying "Prepare a way for the Lord!" It is to recognise the true gift that is being offered to us. The Lord gently seeks to speak to the deeper needs of the human heart, inviting us to acknowledge as the only One who can truly offer us his healing and mercy. It is indeed to welcome and prepare for this feast of Christmas, knowing that it is about experiencing the joy of God's consoling love.

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

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 and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible.



MASS LINKS. Please call the Parish Office before 3pm if you need help with your booking. Limit of 5 tickets per booking. Covid requirements can be found in 'Terms & Conditions'

WEEKDAY Masses open on SATURDAY at 9am and close at 3pm the day prior. St Mary's Whittlesea Morning Mass

9.15am Tuesday 8 Dec: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNESQ>

Nazareth Centre Mernda Morning Mass 9.15am Wed 9 Dec

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNESR>

St Mary's Whittlesea Morning Mass 9.15am Thurs 10 Dec

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNESU>

Nazareth Centre Mernda Morning Mass 9.15am Fri 11 Dec

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNESW>

All bookings for WEEKEND Masses open TUESDAY 8 December at 9am and close on FRIDAY 11 December at 4pm.

5.30pm Mass Nazareth Centre Mernda Saturday 12 December

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNETP>

8am Mass Nazareth Centre Mernda Sunday 13 December

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNESY>

8.30am Mass St Mary's Kinglake Sunday 13 December

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNETA>

10am Mass St Mary's Whittlesea Sunday 13 December

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNEUC>

10.30am Mass Nazareth Centre Mernda Sunday 13 December

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNETD>

BOOKINGS WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES. DETAILS OF TIMES AND TRYBOOKING LINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM NEXT WEEKEND, 12/13 DECEMBER.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession will be held on Saturdays at 10am. St Joseph's church, Plenty Rd Mernda on the 5th and 19th December. St Mary's, Whittlesea on the 12th December.

RECEIPTS AND STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES are AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCHES this WEEKEND. Please collect your envelopes and



if possible, we would be very grateful if you could deliver a neighbour's to reduce postage costs. Credit Card and Direct Debit receipts have been issued via email. If you haven't received your receipt or you need to update your email address please forward it to merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au and we will issue your receipt. If you do not have email and would like your receipt posted, please contact the Parish office. *We thank you for your support of the stewardship program for the Parish. At this time if you are still able to make a financial contribution to the parish, your ongoing support would be greatly appreciated. However, if your present circumstances have changed, we completely understand.*



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL. Millions of Australian families will be spending this Christmas in poverty. Vinnies is taking pressure off families who are facing hardship by providing food hampers, emotional support, and help with essentials. **We continue to encourage everyone to**

donate, either at a Leaving Collection at all of our Churches on Saturday/Sunday 5th & 6th December; calling 13 18 12 to donate or by donating online at vinnies.org.au. These donations will go directly to your local **Mernda and Whittlesea/Kinglake**

Conferences to continue the much needed work in our local community. Thank you in advance for your generosity and we wish all a Happy and a Holy Christmas.



On Sunday 6 December, Sonya Barnes, Gerrad Harper and Mark Lockwood will be signed with the Cross of Christ symbolising their expressed intention to learn more of Christ and to follow him with the help and prayers of our Parish Community. Please pray for them as they continue on their journey towards initiation into our Church.

The 2021 Columban Calendars are now available. They cost \$10 each. Please put the correct amount of money in the envelope provided at the back of the church.

Christmas Hampers for Whittlesea Ministries Inc (WMI) Each year WMI has traditionally put together generous hampers for those experiencing need within the township community. It has always been seen as a form of Christian outreach by the Combined Churches of Whittlesea. The need, of course, continues but the method of collecting and distributing goods in our new Covid 19 normal has had to change. Rather than donating goods we would be very grateful if you could spare a few dollars towards offsetting the cost of providing these goods. An envelope marked WMI can be left on the collection plate or passed on to either Fr Marin, Fr Shymon or the Parish Office. This way purchasing, handling and packing of hampers will be confined to a limited number of people.