



## CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

## First Sunday Advent. Year B. 29 November 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](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: Eddie Rocks, William Carter, Thomas Chembakaparambil

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

#### **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: Ps 79:2-3, 15-19**

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

#### **Second Reading:**

St Paul to Corinth 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: Yr B 2nd Sunday Advent**

First: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second: 2nd letter of St Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

### **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

There is a beautiful story about 'The Four Candles'. It goes like this; The Four Candles burn slowly. The ambiance was so soft, you could hear them speak. The first one said: I am Peace! "However, nobody can keep me lit. I will go out". Its flame rapidly diminishes and goes out completely. The second one said: I am Faith! "Most of all I am no longer indispensable, it doesn't make any sense that I stay lit any longer." When it finished talking, a breeze softly blew on it putting it out. Sadly, the third candle spoke in its turn: I am Love! "I haven't got the strength to stay lit. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." And waiting no longer, it goes out. Suddenly, a child enters the room and sees three candles not burning. "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit till the end." Saying this, the child begins to cry. Then the fourth candle said: "Don't be afraid, for while I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles. I am Hope." With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles. The story illustrates that with the flame of hope each of us can live with peace, faith and love.

This weekend, the Church enters into the Advent season, full of hope. It has been a tough year for everyone. The Church prepares to welcome Child Jesus at Christmas amidst all chaos of Covid-19, in order to remind its people that Jesus is the only hope for all humankind. So literally, the advent season exhorts each one of you that you never let lose the flame of hope in you. Trust in God who is always with you in all the difficult times of your life. Remember his timely intervention to you during this lockdown, how he has been taken care of you. He is the hope in you. It is very important that you keep the flame of hope always in your hearts. As the readings this weekend exhort, be wakeful and watchful in order to secure the flame of hope in you. This is not only for you but to brighten the life of others too especially, those who are helpless and vulnerable at their turmoil of life. Hence, may this Advent season impart us the grace to light the life of many people who have lost the sense of hope in their life and extinguished the flame of their light. So that they may have the hope, faith, love and peace during this time of Christmas.

**Fr Shymon Thekkekalathungal, Assistant Priest.**



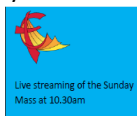
**We are a Child Safe Parish.**  
**We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.**

### **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.



**MASS LINKS.** Please call the Parish Office before 3pm if you need help with your booking.

**All bookings for WEEKDAY Masses open on SATURDAY at 9am and close at 3pm the day prior**

**St Mary's Church Whittlesea Morning Mass 9.15am**

Tuesday 1 Dec 2020 <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEPL>

**Nazareth Centre Mernda Morning Mass 9.15am**

Wednesday 2 Dec 2020 <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEPY>

**St Mary's Church Whittlesea Morning Mass 9.15am**

Thursday 3 Dec 2020 <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEQB>

**Nazareth Centre Mernda Morning Mass 9.15am**

Friday 4 Dec 2020 <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEQE>

**All bookings for WEEKEND Masses open TUESDAY 1 December at 9am and close on FRIDAY 4 December at 4pm.**

**5.30pm Mass Nazareth Centre Mernda Saturday 5 December**

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

**8am Mass Nazareth Centre Mernda Sunday 6 December**

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

**8.30am Mass St Mary's Kinglake Sunday 6 December**

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

**10am Mass St Mary's Anawim Centre Whittlesea Sunday 6 December**

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

**10.30am Mass Nazareth Centre Mernda Sunday 6 December**

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

Limit of 5 tickets per booking. Covid requirements can be found in 'Terms & Conditions'.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession** can be arranged by contacting the Parish Office by phone or email.

### **Masses attendances are opening up!!**

Following last Sunday's announcement made by the Premier and following the new Guidelines set out by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we can now open up with greater numbers but within the limitations in each of our Parish Worship Centres:

St Mary's Anawim Centre, Whittlesea (100 people maximum [Sunday Mass])

Nazareth Centre, Mernda (72 people maximum [Wednesday, Friday, Sunday Mass])

St Mary's, Kinglake (35 people maximum [Sunday Mass])

St Mary's Church, Whittlesea (35 people maximum [Tuesday/Thursday Mass])



**We need your HELP!!** During this time of COVID restrictions we are in need of volunteers to tick off the names of the attendees at each of our Masses. We also require assistance with the distribution of sanitiser during mass. If you are able to help with either of the above we would be most grateful. Simply contact the parish office on phone 9412 8493 or email [merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au](mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au) and a team member will contact you with details.

**Stewardship envelopes** and statements up to 30 October 2020 will be available for collection at all masses next weekend 5/6 December.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

**Millions of Australian families will be spending this Christmas in poverty.** Many of them are facing hardship for the first time and have suddenly found themselves frightened about how they will keep a roof over their head and put food on the table let alone celebrate on Christmas Day. Vinnies is taking pressure off families who are at breaking point 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 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December; calling 13 18 12 to donate or by donating online at [vinnies.org.au](http://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.



**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE** had a Zoom meeting on Thursday 19 November. The committee has been working hard in preparing our self audit 10 standards, which will be submitted to the Professional Standards Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne by 30 November. We have also received new resources that include child safety posters that will be on display in all of our worship centres soon.