



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Third Sunday Advent. Year B. 13 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
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: James Eveston

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

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:26-50,53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading:

St Paul to Thess 5:16-24

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

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

Next week: Yr B 4th Sunday Advent

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

Second: St Paul to Rom 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

GOSPEL REFLECTION

One day a pastor was preparing pancakes for her young sons. As all other kids the boys started to argue each other about who would get the first Pancake. When the mum noticed it, as all other mums she took that opportunity to teach them a moral lesson. She said, my dear children, do you know if child Jesus were sitting here, he would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake... I can wait. Then the younger boy turned to his brother and said, "You be Jesus," Ok?

Finding Jesus in life is the greatest joy of a Christian. He brings joy to our lives. The shepherds and Magi were so excited and rejoiced when they found Jesus at Bethlehem. They carried that joy as they returned back to their home. This sort of joy brings to one's entire life once they meet Christ. This is the celebration of a Christian's life. A journey of a Christian life is finding Jesus and joyfully journey with him.

This Sunday is called "Gaudete Sunday" or "Rejoice Sunday" which reminds us to "rejoice in the Lord always". The readings for this Sunday of Advent back up this message that the past, present and the future coming of Jesus is the reason for our rejoicing. The first reading tells us that we should rejoice because the promised messiah is coming as our saviour by liberating us from our bondages. The psalm of the day is taken from Mary's "Magnificat," in which she exclaims: "My soul rejoices in my God, my spirit finds joy in God my saviour." St. Paul in the second reading advises us to "rejoice always" by leading a blameless, holy and thankful life guided by the Holy Spirit because Christ is faithful in his promise that he will come again to reward us. The Gospel today tells us that John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the light, that is, Jesus, and the coming of Jesus the light into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoicing also because, like John the Baptist, we too are chosen to witness to Christ Jesus, the light of the world, by reflecting his light in our lives so that we may illuminate the dark lives of others and share the joy around us especially during this pandemic.

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

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.



ALL MASS LINKS are on our website. Please call the Parish Office before 3pm if you need help.

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

NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST is Fr Jude Johnson. He 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!



This Sunday we will welcome Anne Rouge into our Catholic Community who will be Baptised, Confirmed and receive the Holy Eucharist during the 10.00am Mass at St Mary's Whittlesea. Please welcome her and her family in the coming weeks and keep her in your prayers.



REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM, 8th DECEMBER 2020

Reflection on 2020: The Team shared insights into our personal and parish experience of 2020. Whilst it has been a difficult year in many respects there were also many positives to emerge. Most importantly many people were seeking hope and reassurance and as a parish we undertook a variety of initiatives to connect with people, address any needs they may have had, and invite them more fully into parish life. A major positive has been our increased use of technology through live streaming of Sunday Mass, improvements to the Parish website, emails to parishioners, the use of zoom for parish meetings and the sacramental programs, and communications to parishioners and school communities from Fr Martin and Fr Shymon. Many of these avenues of engagement and communication will continue to be developed into the future.

Parish Life 2021: As we look forward to 2021 a number of areas of parish life have been identified as points of growth as we move towards becoming a missionary parish. It is hoped to establish a small missionary team who will provide leadership and guidance as we respond to Pope Francis' call for each of us to become missionary disciples of Jesus and to reach out to those who are searching for God. We hope to strengthen our connections with families, especially through digital means of communication, and provide opportunities for faith formation especially for families who are presenting their children for reception of the sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation). We also hope to provide further opportunities for parishioners to deepen their relationship with God in personal and communal prayer.

Farewell: It was with a mixture of joy in God's providence and regret for our loss that we said farewell to Fr Shymon as a member of the PLT. Fr Shymon has been a committed and valued member of the team for 3 years. In his work amongst us we have come to appreciate his goodness, kindness and humility. We wish him every blessing in his new ministry with the people of Western Port parish.

REMINDER - RECEIPTS AND STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES are AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF CHURCH Please collect your envelopes, we would also be very grateful if you could collect your neighbour's and deliver it to them. If contribute via credit card or direct debit and haven't received your receipt or to update your email address, please forward details to merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au



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.

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

Whittlesea Christmas Carols. Join the Online Premiere **Finding Hope 2020 at 7:30pm Friday 18 December.** Check the "Events in Whittlesea" Channel on Youtube. There will be a performance from St Mary's Parish Primary School, Whittlesea.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS (MOM). In a year like no other in living memory, MOM has continued to embrace opportunities to change the lives of those who struggle to survive harsh living conditions and extreme poverty. Your continued support for this appeal is greatly appreciated. There will be a leaving collection at every Mass this weekend.

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 NEEDEDMany 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.

