

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

COME, LORD JESUS. The prophet Isaiah implored God to tear the heavens open and come down to save the people. God, however, did not come among us in such a dramatic way but in the humble form of Jesus of Nazareth. God continues to enter our lives in unexpected ways. If we are watchful for the presence of Christ in each day, we will recognise him when he comes in glory.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 24:1-3

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, (striking the breast) through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT

P. Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father.

Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,

the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down — at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,

all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves

and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name

or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us

and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;

we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

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

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,/shine forth from your cherubim throne./O Lord, rouse up your might./O Lord, come to our help. R.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,/look down from heaven and see./Visit this vine and protect it,/the vine your right hand has planted. R.

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,/the man you have given your strength./And we shall never forsake you again:/give us life that we may call upon your name. R.



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Mk 13:33-37

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task;

and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF ADVENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 84: 13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Parish Office: Tuesday and Friday 9.00-3.30pm

Please Note: Monday is **Father Mathews DAY OFF** so, unless it is urgent, please wait until Tuesday to contact him. Thank you.

Parish Priest: Father Mathew Raj O.M.I. pp.lesmurdie@perthcatholic.org.au Parish Secretary: (Fridays only) Parish Finance Officer: Mrs. Helen Chew (Tuesdays only) lesmurdie@perthcatholic.org.au	Pastoral Committee: David Vallis 0408 922 456 Safeguarding Officers: Ann Page: annpage66@gmail.com Christine Gibson: christineg968@gmail.com Kristine Griasch: bambigriasch22@gmail.com	Catholic Schools: St. Brigids College: 9290 4200 Mazenod College: 9291 1500 Parish Religion Education Program (PREP) Sue Di Marco: preplesmurdie@gmail.com
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First Sunday of Advent /B 3rd December 2023

<u>SUNDAY MASS TIMES</u> OUR LADY OF LOURDES Saturday Vigil 6.00pm Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am OUR LADY OF GRACE Sunday 8.00am	<u>WEEKDAY MASS TIMES</u> <u>REFER TO MASS TABLE BELOW</u> NO Monday Mass Tuesday: 8.00am Wednesday: 8.00am Thursday: 8.00am Friday: 9.00am	Volunteers are needed for Mass linen washing, Church cleaning, dusting, and watering the garden. Please see Fr. Mathew
<u>RECONCILIATION</u> OUR LADY OF LOURDES Saturday 5.15pm - 5.45pm OUR LADY OF GRACE Sunday Before 8.00am Mass	<u>CELEBRATIONS</u> Baptisms: Contact Parish Office Weddings: Contact Father	<u>FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK</u> 07/12 St. Ambrose, bishop, doctor 08/12 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

PARISH EVENTS:

Advent Program is been carried by **The Prayer Group** Thursday's at 11:00am. For more information please contact Kathy 0407 777 387. Everyone is welcome!!

Parish Morning Tea will be Sunday **3rd December** after 9:30 Mass. All welcome!!

<u>WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS</u>			Planned Giving
Sat 02	6.00pm	Holy Souls	The Planned Giving program is an important part of the Parish as it allows us to maintain all aspects of the Church, Presbytery and Parish Centre. In order to keep the Parish viable we must maintain a target of 95% and above each week. Last week's giving was 66% of target. Thank you!
Sun 03	8.00am	Holy Souls	
	9.30am	Holy Souls	Safeguarding of our children in the Parish The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Project was started in 2016 by Archbishop Timothy Costello SDB with the aim of providing a safe and secure environment for all its members, leaders and especially children and vulnerable adults. Our Lady of Lourdes is committed to creating a safe parish.
Tue 05	8.00am	Holy Souls	
Wed 06	8.00am	Holy Souls	
Thu 07	8.00am	Holy Souls	
Fri 08	9.00am	Holy Souls	
PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE WORLD God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust to you the people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine and all peoples who suffer from injustice. Protect them all in this time of peril. Let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all. We are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Mary Our Mother, Queen of Peace, Pray for us.			SCAM ALERT! Dear parishioner unfortunately scammers are targeting our community yet again, by impersonating Fr. Mathew via email and text messages, instructing people to purchase gift cards and send the details so other people can cash them in. Please do not respond to any of these!

SPECIAL PARISH INFORMATION AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENT

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus. Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples - Peter, James, John, and Andrew - who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face. Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes. Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering. Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. *(Source: Loyola Press)*

Choir rehearsals for Christmas 9:30 pm. Vigil Mass. We will start practising on Wednesday 6th of December at 7:30 pm in the church. Please bring your singing voices, and new members are welcome to join us. Please direct your enquiries to Shirley Spencer at 0448391819.

Christmas Cake and Produce Stall fundraising event on Sunday, December 17th, after the 8am and 9:30am Masses. We are requesting donations of cakes and slices. All proceeds will go towards upgrading the portable sound system. Please direct your enquiries to Shirley Spencer at 0448391819 and Kathy Young at 0407777387.

St Vincent De Paul has placed a Christmas collection box in the Church foyer for donations of appropriate foodstuff to be distributed to the needy over Christmas time. Due to circumstances this year our Christmas hampers will be made up only from our generosity of non-perishable foods. **Please have your donations in by Friday 15th** December. Should you'd like to make a cash donation please deposit it in the **Poor Box**. May the Lord bless your generosity.

Columban Calendars 2024 still available for sale \$10. Proceeds in support of St. Vincent de Paul.

Christmas Mass Time Table Please see poster on board.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK : Mark Blackwell, Louise Miller, Elvin Fernandez, Matt Don, Pekka Marttinen, Ann Elliott, Barbara Chodorowski, Jim Everett, Colleen Searle, Ralph Leon Mendoza, Olive Ferguson, Emma Newman, Oliver Reid, Marc Fernandes, Mary J Wilson, Reece McCuthcheon, Herman Z, Rita Z, Beatrix Zureich, Phillip Everett, Liz Lennon, Lin Sole, Ryan Campbell, Fiona Ball, Jill Turner, Marjorie Bly, Lucy Barranca, June McGinnity, Katie Searlle, Tom Ryan, Len Brajkovich, Bruno Toffoli, Annemarie Domican, Michael Gillum, Ron Byrnes, Josephine Rondena, Cecilia Norris, Fr. Paul Raj, Fr. Vittorio Ricciardi, Delta & Eris Toop, Patrick M., Blair Richards, Fr. Wayne Davies, Theo Oorschot, Jenny Conti, Mary R., Fevziye R., and those battling with illness **and all those who have asked for our prayers.**

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: *Eternal rest unto them O Lord and may. Perpetual Light shine upon them.*

DECEMBER	09	10	10		16	17	17
MASS	6PM	8AM	9.30AM		6PM	8AM	9.30AM
PROCLAIMER	Christine	Chris D	Sabrina		Pam	Ellita	Aida
ACOLYTE	Richard	Dermot	Lou		Terry	Richard	George
COLLECTION	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers		Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
MUSIC	S. Spencer	Quiet Mass	Mark & Eddie		S. Spencer	Quiet Mass	Mark & Eddie
CHURCH CLEANER	Aida				Pam		
MORNING TEA							