



# Kyabram Catholic Parish

**St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum**

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: Kyabram@cdos.org.au

**Parish Administrator – Fr John Paul Pasala**

We come to worship we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land

**Second Sunday of Advent - Year B**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**



*Readings for this week:* Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
2 Peter 3:8-14  
Mark 1:1-8



*Readings for next Sunday:* Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28



## Liturgical Jottings

### Cosmic Time

God, in creating the universe and all creatures also brought time into being with the sun, moon and stars to rule the passages of time. The days and years, the changing of the seasons and birth, aging and death of living creatures are constituent of cosmic time. The rising of the sun and its setting, planting and harvesting, beginnings and endings are all marked and celebrated by rites and commemorations. Over millennia pagan rites gave way to religious rites and feasts marking God's providence and intervention into our human existence and the marvellous events of salvation.



## Looking at the Readings

From the endings of scriptural passages last week we hear from the beginnings this week. The first reading is the beginning of Second Isaiah. The Israelites are now in exile. The Prophet Isaiah comforts the people in their despair with words of hope of the coming of God in might and in loving care like a shepherd.

The beginning of the Gospel of Mark today is explicit: "The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God". Mark, the earliest completed Gospel and the shortest goes directly to the announcement of the Good News with the herald of John the Baptist: "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight (Mk 1:3) that echoes Isaiah 40:3.

Both prophets are announcing the coming of the marvellous works of salvation of God but we have to be ready to receive. Not only tidy the house for the visitor but go out into the streets, remove the obstacles, make the road come directly to our home. Our home is where we live, our lives are our home for God. Advent is our preparation; Christmas is our delight in God's visit.

## Quote for Advent

I don't think we'll understand Advent correctly until we see it as a preparation for a revolution. *Bishop Robert Barron*

## Advent Prayer

New earth, new world to save his people, God will come. Peace on earth, heaven among us: We must prepare the way of the Lord.

## Pope Francis' Encyclical Fratelli Tutti

The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development. (118)

## On the Lighter Side

Q: What football team did baby Jesus support?

A: Manger-star United!

Q: Why did nobody bid for Donner and Blitzen on eBay?

A: They were two deer!

Q: How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?

A: Deep pan, crisp and even!



## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

**Commentator:** On this Second Sunday of Advent we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.



Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, our farmers, labourers and shift workers on whom our economy stands. Those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

We light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

**All: Come Lord Jesus teach us your ways.**

*(Light two purple candles)*

## MASS – THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

St Vincent De Paul is offering a Mass on **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December** at 6.00pm in St Augustine's Church in memory of Denis Wood. Parishioners are invited to attend.

*[Please note that there will not be a 9.15am Mass on the Thursday morning.]*

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Christmas Masses at St Augustine's Church, Kyabram will be as follows:

**Christmas Eve - Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm (Carols 7.00pm)**

**Christmas Day - Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> December – 8.00am**

More details will be provided, when it is known what COVID restrictions will apply.

## SANDHURST ADVENT LEAFLETS 2020

How do we form communities of Joy, Hope and Service?

In Advent 2020, individuals and small groups are invited to dip into the Advent Scriptures, Pope Francis' latest encyclical Fratelli Tutti ('Brothers and Sisters All') and a Plenary Council Thematic paper for discernment, to reflect, pray and discern practical ideas for the future.

Go to:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/1776-advent-leaflets-2020>

## CHRISTMAS TREE

This year we are invited to donate toys, toiletries and non-perishable groceries for distribution locally by St Vincent de Paul. Please do not wrap any item.

Please leave your donation under the Christmas tree in the church. St Vincent de Paul will collect all items after the Sunday Mass on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Peace and blessings.

## MASSES AT ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, KYABRAM

With the recent changes to COVID restrictions and in meeting the density quotient for St Augustine's church, **89 people** are able to attend each Mass. You will not need to book in advance to attend.

All COVID restrictions apply:

- Registration of name & phone number
- Complying with social distancing rules
- Masks must be worn during Mass
- Hands sanitizer to be used upon entering the Church
- If unwell, please stay home

## CONFITEOR

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, 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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**Sick:** Kadyn Mitchell, Joan Childs, Tony Curtis

**Recently Deceased:** -

**Anniversaries:** -

(Please email the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list.)



## Parish Administrator

**Fr John Paul Pasala**

Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026

Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

### Pastoral Associate

Alma Limbrick (available in Parish Office on Thursdays, 8.30 to 5.00pm)

### Administration

Leanne, Colleen and Ruth

### Parish Office hours –

Mon/Tues/Thurs – 8.30am to 12 noon

Wednesdays – 8.30am to 3.00pm

The Parish Office email address is:

**kyabram@cdos.org.au**

### Principals

St Augustine's College

Brayden Stone – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary

Katrina Johnson – Phone 5859 0371

### Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul, Alma Limbrick (Pastoral Associate), Alana Brennan (Chairperson),

Joe Chant, Maurie Finn,

John Forde, Katrina Johnson,

Brendon Lane, Finola Price,

Brayden Stone, Mary Zobec

## Mass Times

### Kyabram

Week Day Masses:

Tuesday: 6.00pm

Thursday: 9.15am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 7.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am

## COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation will be held at St Augustine's Church, Kyabram on **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.00pm.

## STRONGER RALLY ONLINE

The second 'Stronger Tonight' online Rally will be happening on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at 5pm. With music, conversation and a little bit of Christmas, this is an online event not to be missed! The livestream will be available on the Stronger Youth YouTube Channel.

Follow Sandhurst Youth and Stronger Youth on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with the latest info.

## 2021 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

2021 Columban Calendars are now available (\$9.00 each).

Please contact Doreen Wood on 5853 2600 or drop a note to Mrs D Wood, 21 Lancaster Street, Kyabram 3620 or email a request to: [dennis.wood1@bigpond.com](mailto:dennis.wood1@bigpond.com).

## JOYFUL, HOPE-FILLED, SERVANT COMMUNITIES

How do we form parish centres of Joy, Hope and Service in the Sandhurst Diocese? Join a zoom **gathering Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December** 7.30-8.30 pm to share some practical ideas. Email [plenary@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:plenary@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) for the zoom link. Read the Plenary Council Theme paper for 'Joyful, Hope-filled, Servant' communities at [www.plenarycouncil.com.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.com.au). View video presentations on the theme at [www.facebook.com/PlenaryCouncilSandhurst](https://www.facebook.com/PlenaryCouncilSandhurst) or Sandhurst Advent 2020 leaflets at [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au) ('News').

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

**"Prepare the way of the Lord..."** - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alléluia, alléluia!

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

#### GOSPEL

Mk 1: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISES

The life of faith is one in which the believer is inevitably called to deal with the tension between God's promises and our present experience. When the people of Israel were dragged into exile their experience was that their God was powerless to save and that the ancient promises had been forgotten. It is at precisely this moment that Isaiah dares to proclaim a message of hope in the midst of desolation, pardon instead of punishment, and that the God who can subdue all things will again stoop to gather the weak and lead them home.

Peter's Christians were clearly worried by the fact that the Risen Lord had not come back in glory as they expected. How could this be interpreted other than as a sign that God's plans had somehow changed, or that God no longer cares? Peter's response is that, despite appearances to the contrary, God's delay should be seen as an opportunity for us to make ready for the Lord's return. It is a moment of grace rather than a sign of God's lack of fruitfulness.

When John the Baptist declared that the longed-for Messiah was near, his contemporaries must have wondered if it was possible. How could this come to pass when the province of Judah was powerless under the rule of the Roman empire? Advent is always a reminder that the call to believe comes to us in the midst of the complexity of life. It meets us head-on with a challenge: are we prepared to take the risk of believing in God's promises?

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

06 DECEMBER 2020

## FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges of a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14, R. v. 8

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

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace, / peace for his people. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. R.



2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. R.

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. R.

## SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will