



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@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest – Fr John Paul Pasala

First Sunday of Advent

27 November 2022



Readings for this week:
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14a
Matthew 24:37-44



Readings for next Sunday:
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12



Liturgy Jottings

The Season of Advent

The history of the Season of Advent reveals great variations in its origins, length, meaning, symbols and practice. First arose in the Gallican churches about the fourth century from a sense of piety rather than from the liturgy. It was marked by fasting and penance. The season varied from three weeks to 40 days. When Rome adopted Advent 200 year later Advent varied from one fast day to about a week. Pope Gregory the Great (591-604) set Advent to be four weeks of preparation for the Feasts of Christmas, differentiating it from Lent. The Eastern Churches marked these days as preparation for the mysteries of the incarnation and epiphany and is marked by joy and festivity. The Ambrosian rite has six Sundays of Advent. The Syrian and Syro Malabar Rites have a "Season of Annunciation" of 3-4 weeks with Christmas within or outside the season.

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Looking at the Readings

The Readings today for the first week of Advent could very much fit into the liturgy of last Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King. They proclaim the coming of the eternal kingdom of God and of our necessary readiness. The Response to the Psalm is identical: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Psalm 121, though this week verses 6-9 are added (see below). Isaiah shares his great vision of the coming of the Lord with us. He combines Temple and Mountain as a symbol of the new kingdom and the Lord's presence. We prepare for the Peace of the Kingdom by our action of turning instruments of war to implements of farming. See the image on left: a blacksmith is hammering swords into pruning forks. St Paul adds to the allegory by encouraging his friends to be armed with the light of Christ. Our armour is Christ himself.

After the warnings in the Gospel to stay awake and not knowing the hour of the coming of the Lord, we are encouraged to be calm in our waiting and joyful in our life and faith.

Prayer for the 1st Week of Advent.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!'
For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

Quote from Pope Francis

We see that the liturgical year is for us the possibility of growing in our knowledge of the mystery of Christ, immersing our life in the mystery of His Death and Resurrection, awaiting his return in glory. This is a true ongoing formation. Our life is not a random chaotic series of events, one following the other. It is rather a precise itinerary which, from one annual celebration of the His Death and Resurrection to the next, conforms us to Him, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Desiderio Desideravi* (2022) n 64.

On the Lighter Side

Christian Advent calendars start on the first Sunday of Advent and contain daily prayers and good deeds. Whereas the supermarket Advent calendars start on 1st December regardless and supply toys, chocolates, etc. for the consumer. Q: Which dangerous cookie was found in the advent calendar? A Ninja-bread man. Q: How did the elf on the shelf feel when he couldn't get chocolate from the advent calendar? A: Foiled!



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES DURING NOVEMBER

For those wishing to have deceased family and friends prayed for during November, a basket will be available in front of the Font to place the names and remembrance envelopes for our deceased loved ones. November offering envelopes are available at the back of the church. Alternatively, for those unable to attend Mass, November envelopes with names can also be dropped off into the mailbox at the presbytery front door.

First Sunday of Advent (Year A) HOPE

The Presider blesses the wreath with the sprinkling of holy water, using these or similar words:

Celebrant: May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism. During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds. May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord.

We invite ___ to light the first candle (Purple), which is often named *the Prophets' Candle* as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

Cel: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah called the Chosen People and today calls all people 'to walk in the light of the Lord.'

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Cel: Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul urges us to be people of the light and to let our armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. You ask us to 'stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour we do not expect.' (Gospel)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Advent Reconciliation

Thursday 15th December at 6pm –followed by social gathering

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December

Carols commencing at 6:00pm,

Mass at 6:30pm

Christmas Morning

Sunday 25th December

Mass at 8:30am

New Year Morning

Mass at 8.30am

SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL

Preparation & Consultation Meeting for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council to be held in Kyabram.

On 27 April 2022 Bishop Shane Mackinlay announced a year of Preparation and Consultation for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC). **Dr Chris Cotter** (Sandhurst Director of Mission and Pastoral Life) and Ruth Lawlor (Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator) will be conducting a

Preparation & Consultation Meeting at St. Augustine, on Saturday 10th December, after the Mass the meeting will run **for about 30-45 minutes**.

At the meeting you will:

- find out about the SMPC
 - participate in a 'Listening and Dialogue' process (as used in the first phase of the Plenary Council)
 - provide feedback and ask questions which will contribute to the establishment of a structure that will support synodality in our diocese.
- All are welcome!

MASS TIMES & ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKENDS

Sunday 4th December at 8.30am:

Commentator – M Carver

Lector –N Watt

Special Minister – M O'Shea

Saturday 10th December at 6pm

Commentator – L Ratcliffe

Lector – J Harris

Special Minister- A O'Meara

Sunday 11th December at 8.30am:

Commentator –S Carroll

Lector – T Hehir

Special Minister – A Ryan

ANOINTING MASS

The next Anointing Mass will be held on Thursday **1st December at 10.00am** in St. Augustine's Church. All welcome. Please note that on this day, there will not be a **9.15am Mass**.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Planned giving envelopes are now available to be picked up from the back of the church. Please note that electronic payments have not been updated on statements for the month of October. Thank you and God Bless You.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Amy Nicholson, Philip Bowman, Trevor Price, Anne Dodd, Kadyn Mitchell-Treacy, Concetta Barbagallo,

Recently Deceased: Julie Shaw

Anniversaries:

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



FORTNIGHT TIME TABLE

Mon 28 Nov -
Tues 29 Nov - Rosary 4:45pm, Mass 5pm.
Wed 30 Nov -
Thurs 01 Dec -10am Anointing Mass.
Fri 02 Dec -

Weekend Masses

Sat 03 Dec - No Mass
Sun 04 Dec -Mass 8:30am, Mass 11.30am at Tongala.

Mon 05 Dec -
Tues 06 Dec - Rosary 4:45pm, Liturgy of the word 5:00pm.
Wed 07 Dec -
Thurs 08 Dec - Mass 9:15am
Fri 09 Dec -

Weekend Masses

Sat 10 Dec - Reconciliation 5.30pm, Mass at 6pm.
Sun 11 Dec - Mass 8:30am

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation will be held at St Augustine's Church,
Kyabram on Thursday, 15th December at 6.00pm.

And also

PARISH CHRISTMAS GATHERING

A parish Christmas gathering will be held after the
Communal Reconciliation at back of the Church. Please bring a plate
to share.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with the Parish Child safety officer on

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

Parish Priest

Fr John Paul Pasala
Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026
Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

Parish Office email address:
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Principals

St Augustine's College
Jay Sutton – Phone 5851 3000
St Patrick's Primary
Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul Pasala,
Alana Brennan (Chairperson)
Maurie Finn, Veronica Fox,
Brendon Lane, Finola Price,
Jackie Stockdale, Jay Sutton

Parish Finance Committee

Fr John Paul Pasala,
Wayne Mulcahy (Chairperson),
James Harris (Deputy Chair) .Naomi Hehir, Peter Ryan, Mary Zobec

Mass Times

Kyabram

Week Day Masses (Tuesday and Thursday): see Diary Dates
Saturday (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month): 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am

Tongala

First Sunday of month 11.30am

Merrigum

Third Sunday of month 12.00 noon

Reconciliation – Second Saturday of the month at 5.30pm (before 6pm Mass) in St Aug's Church Kyabram.

Mass of Anointing is held the first Thursday of the month at 10.00am in St Augustine's Church.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Breaking Open the Word

WALK IN THE LIGHT

There are some phrases from the scriptures which have the power to stir the imagination thousands of years after they were written.

The image of hammering swords into ploughshares, spears into sickles, and soldiers becoming farmers speaks so powerfully to our deep longing for peace. Isaiah's vision was that a time would come when all people would be united in worship of the living God; when war would be replaced by understanding and all people would walk in the light of the Lord.

Paul understood Isaiah's vision was soon to become reality on the Lord's return. His concern was to make sure that the Christians of Rome were prepared for that moment. Some of them had fallen into a misplaced sense of complacency. Paul disagrees. Now was the time to get one's house in order, to put aside the ways that blur and obscure our vision, so as to come into the light of Jesus.

In a similar way, fifty years after the resurrection of the Lord it was all too easy for Matthew's community to lose hope that the Lord would return soon and bring Isaiah's and Paul's vision to reality. As this Advent season begins, the challenge is placed squarely before us – if the Son of Man were to return now would we be ready and waiting? What are we doing to bring Isaiah's vision of peace to reality? What areas of our life still need to be brought into the light of Christ?

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

FIRST READING

Isa 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come

the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the Temple of the God of Jacob

that he may teach us his ways

so that we may walk in his paths;

since the Law will go out from Zion,

and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into

ploughshares,

their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,

there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us go to God's house. / And now our feet are standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

THE SAVING WORD

27 NOVEMBER 2022



2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes of the Lord. / For Israel's law it is, / there to praise the Lord's name. / There were set the thrones of judgement / of the house of David. **R.**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace be to your homes! / May peace reign in your walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**

4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say: 'Peace upon you!' / For love of the house of the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**