



# 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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Cycle C**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



Readings for this week:

Micah 5:1-4  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-44



Readings for next Sunday

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28  
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24  
Luke 2:41-52



## Liturgical Jottings

### Advent Prefaces

The Roman Missal has two Advent Prefaces, the first written in 1968 covers the first Sunday of Advent to 16 December. The text retells the story of salvation around the two comings (*adventus*) of Christ. The first coming of Christ in humility and his second coming in glory. The second preface for 17-24 December takes up the Gospel texts where Blessed Virgin Mary and John the Baptist have prominent roles, like the prophets of old, in announcing the imminent birth and coming of Christ.



## Focus on the Readings

We have a rich selection of readings this Sunday before Christmas. It is the only time the Prophet Micah is read on a Sunday and it is a passage in praise of Bethlehem, his own birthplace and the foretelling of the birthplace of the Lord. This passage is also the first reading for the feast of the birth of Mary. Our own place of birth may have a personal significance, no matter if it is well known or not. We identify not only genealogically but also geographically with our origins.

The Letter to the Hebrews presents a succinct message of the meaning of Christ's presence in the world and salvation history. It has a note of humility. Christ comes to obey the will of the Father. Christmas may also impress on us a feeling of humility to think that Christ humbled himself for us.

The encounter with Mary and Elizabeth in the Gospel is a sharing of excitement, praise and thanksgiving. We are told Elizabeth is elderly, Mary very young but they have the expectancy of birth of their children that brings them together. Mary presents us with a hymn of praise (verses 46-56), the "Magnificat" which will be read on Wednesday. But it is a prayer we may say every evening. Geographically and chronologically we are distant but spiritually we are very close to Mary, the mother of our saviour. We truly give praise and thanks to God

## The Magnificat ~ Cantic of Mary

The cantic (Luke 1:46-56) is both a fulfilment and a solemn new beginning. It is presented as a song of thanksgiving in a form much like the psalms of thanksgiving. It contains phrases from psalms 9, 34, 35, 89, 98, 99, 102, 103, 105, 111, 113 and 149. It emerges from the depths of the Hebrew Scriptures from the Songs of Miriam and Hannah. Miriam on the occasion of crossing the Red Sea in the Exodus (15:21) and Hannah on the occasion of the long awaited birth of Samuel (1 Sam 2:1-8). Mary is the first to be full of faith, her song then expresses the faith of the primitive Christian community: a new Exodus in the path of her Son, Jesus. This cantic forms the Gospel on 22 December, the Feasts of the Assumption, Visitation and Mary Help of Christians and is the response to the first reading seven times during the year.

## On the lighter side

What's the difference between an in-tune saxophone section of a Pops Band and Santa Clause? One is a figment of your imagination and the other delivers toys at Christmas.



## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

**Commentator:** On this fourth Sunday of Advent we remember Joseph, worn-out traveller and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the 'kin-dom' of God.

Today we light the fourth candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

**All: Come Lord Jesus strengthen our faith.**

*(Light two purple candles, the rose candle, and the last purple candle.)*



## CHANGES TO VICTORIA'S COVID RESTRICTIONS

As announced by the Victorian Government, most of the COVID restrictions applying to churches lifted from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

- All restrictions on attendance numbers are lifted, regardless of vaccination status.
- Face masks are not required.

Recording of contact details (by QR code or written) and use of hand sanitiser is still required at all weekend and weekday Masses.

**And remember that if unwell, please stay home.**

*"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas."*

*— Peg Bracken*

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

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

**Christmas Eve - Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> December – 6.30pm (Carols 6.00pm)**  
(Outdoor Family Mass – BYO chairs and rugs)

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

Recording of contact details (by QR code or written) will be required.

At both our Christmas Masses, there will be a third (leaving) collection for St Vincent de Paul.



## HELPERS NEEDED

Helpers are needed for both the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at St Augustine's.

Forms for these Masses are available at the back of the church to put your name down if you can help in any way.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We wish all the teachers, staff, students and families a safe and enjoyable break over the school holidays.

Parish Office hours will be limited during the Christmas/New Year period and over the school holidays, so please contact the office with any bulletin notices or anniversary names well in advance.

## PLENARY COUNCIL FIRST ASSEMBLY DOCUMENT RELEASED

The 'first fruits' document from the First Assembly of the Fifth Australian Plenary Council, convened in October 2021 is now available for all to read online or download:

Look for "First Assembly Proposals from Small Groups and Individual Members" in <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/keydocuments/> or direct access at: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_d7hnmr8Bzf1XvG4Urv8MBRv3eit1i/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_d7hnmr8Bzf1XvG4Urv8MBRv3eit1i/view).

## MASS TIME & ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am:**

Commentator – M DiPetta; Lector – S Carroll;  
Special Minister – S Newbegin

**Please note that there is no 6.00pm Mass on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, and no Merrigum Mass on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> December.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**Sick:** Craig Rosendale, Catherine Anderson, Megan De Pasquale, Julie Shaw, Joan Childs

**Recently Deceased:** Christine Mary Lutwyche (Halsall), Edmon Hoy

**Anniversaries:** Felisa Baric, Domenico Rosa, Raffaele Rosa, Angelica Rosa, Giuseppina Quattrocchi

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



## DIARY DATES

Mon	20 Dec	-
Tues	21 Dec	Mass 5.00pm – Intention of Angelica Rosa, Domenico Rosa, Raffaele Rosa and Protection of the Unborn
Wed	22 Dec	-
Thurs	23 Dec	Mass 9.15am – Intention of Frank & Normah Reid
Fri	24 Dec	Christmas Vigil (outdoors) 6.30pm (Carols 6.00pm)
Sat	25 Dec	Christmas Day 8.00am <b>No 6.00pm Mass</b>
Sun	26 Dec	Mass 8.30am <b>No Merrigum Mass</b>
Mon	27 Dec	-
Tues	28 Dec	<b>No Mass</b>
Wed	29 Dec	-
Thurs	30 Dec	<b>No Mass</b>
Fri	31 Dec	-
Sat	1 Jan	<b>No Mass</b>
Sun	2 Jan	Mass 8.30am (Baptisms during Mass)

## SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2023 – BUILDING ON THE WORK OF THE AUSTRALIAN PLENARY COUNCIL

In March 2020, Pope Francis announced that the next Synod of Bishops in October 2023 would be “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission” – a church in which we are ‘walking together.’

In the coming months, the processes of the Australian Plenary Council and the international Synod of Bishops will overlap and interwine in many ways. Australia’s contribution to the Synod will build upon the work of our Plenary Council.

To find out more or to make your own contribution at any time go to: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>.

## ALONG THE TRACK

Along the Track are a series of reflections by Jim Quillinan of Warragol produced by the Catholic Diocese of Sale.

The latest few articles, “Never too Late”, “Birthdays” and “A Friend in Me” can be viewed by visiting our Parish website (and then click ‘Other Information’ on the Home page) or can be received via email if you wish to contact the parish office with your email details.

## 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 –**  
Tues/Wed/Fri – 8.30am to 12 noon  
Thursday – 8.30am to 5.00pm

Parish Office email address  
**kyabram@cdos.org.au**

Parish Office website:  
**www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au**

**Principals**  
St Augustine’s College  
Acting Principal – Phone 5851 3000  
St Patrick’s Primary  
Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
Fr John Paul Pasala, Alma Limbrick (Pastoral Associate), Alana Brennan (Chairperson), Maurie Finn, Jackie Stockdale, Brendon Lane, Finola Price

**Parish Finance Committee**  
Fr John Paul Pasala, Wayne Mulcahy (Chairperson), Leanne Beck, Kathy Gill, James Harris, Naomi Hehir, Peter Ryan, Terry O’Sullivan, Angela Shaw, Mary Zobec

## Mass Times

### Kyabram

**Week Day Masses** (Tuesday and Thursday): see Diary Dates

**Saturday** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month): 6.00pm

**Sunday:** 8.30am

### Tongala

Second Sunday of month 11.30am

### Merrigum

Fourth Sunday of month 11.30am

**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.

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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# Breaking Open the Word

## GOD IN OUR LIVES

Judah was not one of the more powerful tribes of Israel. It must have come as a surprise to many when Micah prophesied that it was from Bethlehem, one of the least clans of Judah, that a future king would come. The future king that Micah promised was one who would feed the flock of God's people using his power to protect them. The passage from the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as king Jesus more than fulfilled that promise when he offered his very life as a sacrifice.

In the Gospel, the new age promised by Micah dawns as Mary visits her kinswoman Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah. Elizabeth wonders at the visit of Mary, the mother of the Lord, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit by whose power she recognises that the promises God made long ago are now coming to their fulfilment. Perhaps her wonder at John's birth, against all expectations when hope had been lost, has sharpened her perception of the mysterious ways of God.

Often it is those who have experienced God's unexpected intervention in their own lives who are the most adept at perceiving how God is working in the lives of others. Advent can be the same for us, a moment of blessing that invites us to recognise how God is working in our lives and world, most of all, in the birth of Jesus our Lord.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

19 DECEMBER 2021

**FIRST READING**

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

**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**

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;

then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**