



# 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

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**11 December 2022**



*Readings for this week:*  
Isaiah 35:1-6,10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11



*Readings for next Sunday:*  
Isaiah 7:10-14  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24



## Liturgy Jottings Advent Structure

- Week 1: Watch and Pray
- Week 2: Prepare the Way
- Week 3: The Messianic Age
- Week 4: The Annunciation of the Messiah's Coming

The twofold character of Advent is reflected in the readings of the four Sundays of Advent. The expectation of the second coming of the Lord is evident in the first two weeks. The preparation for the incarnation of the Lord is evident in the liturgies of the fourth Sunday of Advent and the days of the "Great Advent (17-24 December)". The third Sunday of Advent is a bridge, which connects the two characters. While we await his second coming we come to realise gradually that he is here already in our midst. Therefore this Sunday we rejoice, our hope is being realised. It is the age of the Messiah, evident in Jesus' miracles and teaching. Now is the time of peace and justice. The Fourth Sunday and week we hear of the Annunciations to Joseph, to Mary and to Zechariah and Elizabeth.

## Looking at the Readings

The Entrance Antiphon (see below) and the Collect for this Sunday express the joy of salvation. The subtitle of the third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice! The A cycle of readings this year do not have the character of the Cycles B & C in which St Paul urges his readers to: "Be Happy at all times" (1 Thess 5:16) and "Always be happy in the Lord." (Phil 4:4) The second reading today, however, urges us to "Be patient" (James 5:7) and uses the image of the farmer waiting for the rain and for the harvest and the example of the patience of the prophets. We are waiting for the Lord's coming as the Prophet Isaiah proclaims in the first reading.

John the Baptist, introduced to us last week, is now in prison. Jesus reminds us that he is the prophet heralding the coming of the Messiah, the Messiah who fulfils the words of Isaiah: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the sick healed, the Good News is proclaimed. John also fulfils the prophets in other ways: he wears the clothes of Elijah, stands firm like Jeremiah, preaches the message of Malachi. Yes, he comes as the greatest and the last of the prophets. The prophets of old and the saints in our time focus not on themselves but on the message of Christ and they point us towards our salvation.

## Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, let our souls, we beg you, O God, be inflamed by your Spirit so that we may be filled with the divine gift and be brightly shining lamps when your Son comes. *Gelasian Sacramentary of Angoulême, France 800 (Transl 1918)*

## Sunday Scripture Snippet

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. *Phil 4: 4-5 - Entrance Antiphon*

## Quote of the Week

There is a perpetual "Advent" of Christ, and this Advent contains John the Baptist. He is present for the final preparation that precedes every great spiritual manifestation or missionary activity, and he is present now. *J Danielou, The Mystery of Advent.*

## On the Lighter Side

The third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, has the option of wearing rose vestments and adorning the church with rose flowers. A parish had no rose vestments so the Parish Priest bought new red socks and washed them with a white set of vestment - they came out pink!





### CHRISTMAS TREE

This year we are invited to donate toys, toiletries, and non-perishable groceries for distribution locally by St Vincent de Paul.

Please leave your donation under the Christmas tree in the church. Also, envelopes are also available on the Christmas tree for cash donations or gift cards. There will be a box available to put these in.

St Vincent de Paul will collect all items after Sunday Mass on 18th December. Thank You for your generosity.

### ST VINNIES LEAVING COLLECTION-CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be a leaving collection for St Vinnies at Christmas Eve mass.

### Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Presider: We invite.....to lights the third candle, which can be named the Saints' Candle to call to mind all the saints who share the life of Christ by being baptised into his Body the Church.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah who proclaims 'Look, your God is coming, he is coming to save you.' (First Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now as the light of the world. St James urges us to be patient and not to lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon. (Second Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory and raise the dead to new life. (Gospel)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

### Let us pray:

O God, who see how your people Faithfully await the feast of the Lord's nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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

### SANDHURST ADVENT LEAFLETS 2022

The theme for Advent this year is from the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Plan 2022 – 2023. Leaflets are available at the back of the church.

### CUPPA AFTER MASS ROSTER

A new roster is being drawn up for next year for the monthly cuppa after mass on second Saturday and third Sunday of each month. Minimal preparation is required for this most important ministry. There is a clipboard at the back of the church to register your name and state your preferences.

### SEASON OF CHRISTMASS

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.

It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is.

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am:

Commentator – V fox  
Lector – M Carver  
Special Minister – M Di Petta

#### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm

Commentator – W Mulcahy  
Lector – M Radanov  
Special Minister- L Busch

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am:

Commentator – N Watt  
Lector – S Carroll

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

#### Advent Reconciliation

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

#### Christmas Eve (BRIGIDINE CENTRE)

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

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Due to the mosquito concerns, Christmas Eve Mass will be held in *the Brigidine Centre*, next to presbytery. 6.00pm for Carols and 6.30pm for mass. Chairs will be provided.

### 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, Ainsley Lane, Anne Dodd, Kadyn Mitchell-Treacy, Concetta Barbagallo,

**Recently Deceased:** Julie Shaw, Margaret Evans.

**Anniversaries:** Alvin Stanley Brunt.

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



### POSITIONS VACANT

A number of positions are currently Vacant on **Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council**, please consider helping out in these areas of need and be part of a team in forming the future of our Parish.

Please contact Fr. John Paul

### FORTNIGHT TIME TABLE

Mon 12 Dec  
Tues 13 Dec – St Pats, Graduation Mass 2pm, Rosary 4:45pm, Mass 5pm.  
Wed 14 Dec -  
Thurs 15 Dec - Mass 9.15am; Communal Reconciliation 6.00pm  
Fri 16 Dec -

#### **Weekend Masses**

Sat 17 Dec - No Mass  
Sun 18 Dec - Mass 8:30am (Xavier Alford, Baptism during the Mass)  
Mass 12.00am at Merrigum.

Mon 19 Dec -  
Tues 20 Dec - Rosary 4:45pm, Liturgy of the word 5:00pm.  
Liturgy meeting 5.45pm

Wed 21 Dec -  
Thurs 22 Dec - Mass 9:15am  
Fri 23 Dec -

#### **Weekend Masses**

Sat 24 Dec - Reconciliation 5.30pm, Mass at 6pm.  
Sun 25 Dec - Mass 8:30am Mon

### COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

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

#### 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.

### HELPERS NEEDED

Helpers are needed for *both the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day* Masses at St Augustine's. Clipboards are available at the back of the church if you can help in any way. We need special ministers, money collectors and ushers and setting up on Friday. Thank you for helping.

### 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 Finola Price on 03 58521310.

### 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:  
[kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

Parish Office website:  
[www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au)

#### 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, 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

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.

### THANK YOU

A big thanks to all the Volunteers who are helping and supporting our parish at this time. All of your volunteer work is greatly appreciated. God Bless.

Fr. John Paul Pasala

# Breaking Open the Word

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## ARE YOU THE ONE?

One can only begin to imagine the excitement, questioning and discussion that must have accompanied the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Reports were flying thick and fast about the carpenter-turned-preacher from Nazareth, whose preaching was accompanied by miraculous healings, and disconcerting sayings. Was it true that Isaiah's prophecy about the eyes of the blind being opened, and the deaf once again being able to hear was being fulfilled?

John the Baptist had spoken with courage about the messiah that was coming and this led to his imprisonment. He had preached that the coming messiah would be a figure of purification and judgement upon Israel. Could it be that Jesus was the promised one? John could not reconcile Jesus' message and ministry with the message for which he had risked his life. Jesus' response to John's question is simple – you must make your judgement based on what you see. If Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled, then there is no need to look any further.

A challenge for James' community was that they recognised Jesus was indeed the saviour, but how were they to manage until his return at the end of time? Their impatience for the Lord's return was leading them into the trap of being fractious with each other. James provides both them and us with the timely reminder that patience with the Lord and each other is a better way to prepare to greet the Lord on his return.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

**FIRST READING** Isa 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed,

then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger / and upholds the widow and orphan. R.

# THE SAVING WORD

11 DECEMBER 2022



3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. R.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18