# The Living Word

# Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

# 11 December 2022

# First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

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 jonguil, 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 on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

# **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

- (R.) Lord, come and save us. or
- (R.) 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.)
- 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** Jas 5:7-10

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.

# Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

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



# Gospel Mt 11:2-11

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.'

# **Reflection** by Greg Sunter

Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

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# HOLY TRINITY

# CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Family 101 Hitchcock Av Our Lady Star of the Sea 68 John Dory Drive

Holy Trinity 34 Stevens St **Oueenscliff** 

**Barwon Heads** Ocean Grove

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### **PASTORAL TEAM**

Rev Fr Darien I Sticklen Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutera

Baptism Preparation:

Mrs Bel Campbell, Mrs Margaret-Mary Flynn, Mrs Maria Sammut,

> Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes

Holy Communion to the sick: Jo Ballard, Sue Condon, Judy Considine, Louise Frances, Genevieve Malone, Eva Millie, David O'Connor, Majella O'Connor, Von Philp

> Safeguarding & Admin Support: Ms Jennie Ryan

### **PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY**

34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225 Telephone: (03) 5258 1673

Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au

Website: www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00am to 1:00pm (excluding public holidays)

### **PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

St. Aloysius, Queenscliff Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove Principal: Ms. Kerryn Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

### **WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**BARWON HEADS:** Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

> Sunday 9:30am, Mass for St Mary's Syro-Malabar Community (Malayalam

language)

OCEAN GROVE:

Sunday 9:00am Sunday 11:00am

QUEENSCLIFF:

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES** 

Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is available prior to each weekend Mass, and also before or after weekday Masses if needed

### **BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS**

Please visit our website or contact Parish office

Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays

# Third Sunday of Advent Year A

Anniversaries 11th December to 17th December: Austin Dillon, Dorothea Dillon, Jack Meredith, Dulcie Hume, Peter Maishman, Kathleen Kelly, Hilda Denneman, Alby Trask, Johanna Koster and Kathleen McLean.

Please pray for those who are Sick: Elly Anwyl, Peg Benham, Naomi Bianco, Mary Blonk, Ron & Helen Carter, Sam and Yvonne Caruana, Connie D'Amico, Benedict Darby, Jack Davin, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Margaret Dyer, Isabel Fitzgerald, Gloria & Ron Forbes, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Peter Harrington, Jeannette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Kerin Hoye, Robert Hurley, Melissa Keogh, Gary Kingsbury, Hilda Koerntjes, Margaret Leahy, Margaret Lomas, Toni Lukauskas, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Piec, Mavourneen Ray, Margaret Renwick (Snr), Daniel & Geraldine Richards, Sean Richards, Betty Rushton, David Selva, Pauline Shannon, Mac & Mary Sullivan, Pam Sullivan, Kevin Teasdale, Aldo Trentini, Deanne Warren, Susan Weston, Michelle Williams, Peter Williams and Shirley Woodruff.

### · **ROSTERS**

If you are unable to meet your commitment on your day, please arrange a substitute. Thank you!

COMMENTATOR (C), LECTOR (L), SPECIAL MINISTER (SM), WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)

OCEAN GROVE: 18th December at 9:00am:

(C) Anthony Dowling (L) Majella O'Connor (SM) Jo Ballard, Dan O'Meara (W) Remo & Naomi Bianco.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 13th December at 10:00am:

John Calnin and Greg Carey.

### SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

If you are a volunteer in our parish, have you:

- 1. A current Working With Children Check?
- Signed a Parish Code of Conduct?
- Done the Safeguarding Essentials 30-minute online training?
- A National Police Check (for counters and collectors only)?

To make it easier, instead of online training, a group training session is being planned for early February next year. To register your interest, please contact Jennie Ryan via email: Queenscliff.Safeguarding@cam.org.au

### WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE UPDATES!

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to comply with our legal requirements. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

### \*\* NEWS & EVENTS \*\*

If you require Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office. Mobile number for emergencies is on the recorded message.

Columban Calendars 2023 now on sale at all churches. \$10.00 each.

Silent prayer and reflection continues at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove, on a fortnightly basis (Tuesdays) from 10-10:30am. Next session will be on Tuesday 20th December.

Email issues at the Parish Office: for the past week, emails sent from the parish office may not be received. CAM IT notified us that the issue was known and has now been resolved. If you are waiting on a reply to an email or any other correspondence and did not receive an email, please contact the parish office (queenscliff@cam.org.au).

Congratulations to St Aloysius school on their fantastic Mission Day and their new flagpoles, this week. It is great to be able to come together as a school community for a wonderful cause and celebration.

**Trinity Aid for Refugees** will be recommencing grocery collections in January 2023, starting with Barwon Heads then rotating monthly across our Parish. Thank you to our generous supporters this year. If you would like to support the Refuge Families in Geelong through December you could donate online to Wesley Church Welcome Place BSB 633 000 Account: 160 305 066. Or contact Shirley 0409 424 243 or email <a href="mailto:shirleyhurley@iinet.net.au">shirleyhurley@iinet.net.au</a>.

TAR Catholic Social Justice Corner (weekly update): From 'Message of Pope John Paul II': Alice Springs 29/11/1986. "Do you perhaps remember those words that Paul VI spoke to the aboriginal people during his visit to them in 1970? On that occasion he said: "We know that you have a lifestyle proper to your own ethnic genius or culture – a culture which the Church respects and which she does not in any way ask you to renounce... Society itself is enriched by the presence of different cultural and ethnic elements. For us you and the values you represent are precious. We deeply respect your dignity and reiterate our deep affection for you."

**Thank you to the children who put up the crib at Ocean Grove Church.** You did a wonderful job, well done.

**St Bernard's Belmont Parish** is recruiting 2 staff members to join its team: Pastoral Worker and Administrative Officer. Do you know someone who is interested in undertaking one of the roles above? If so, please let them know. Job descriptions: <a href="https://www.melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies">www.melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies</a>

### LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday 12th December - Our Lady of Guadalupe (Memorial)

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – St Lucy (Memorial) 9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove 11:00am Mass and Anointing at Sea Views Manor, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – St John of the Cross (Memorial) 9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff 11:00am Mass and Anointing at Arcare, Point Lonsdale

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent** 9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Friday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent 9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Saturday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December – FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

This weekend, we light the Third Advent candle – the candle of Joy.

This Sunday is known as Gaudéte Sunday, which comes from the entrance Antiphon:

Gaudéte in Dómino sempre: íterum dico, gaudéte... Dóminus enim prope est.

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4: 4-5)

Thought for the Week:

Sometimes your only available transportation is a leap of faith.

~ Margaret Shepard.



Anthony & Letitia Dowling with the friendly team you know and trust. 2 Park Lane, Ocean Grove VIC 3226 Phone: 5255 5655

Email: <u>info@oceaneyes.com.au</u>
Visit: <u>www.oceaneyes.com.au</u>



### Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme ("NILS")

Geelong Vinnies NILS provides people on pensions & low incomes with loans up to \$1500 for essentials such as whitegoods, TVs, computers, medical & dental services, car repairs, etc... with absolutely no interest or fees! For further information, contact Vinnies NILS Tel 5229 8829 or email enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au.





## **CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO**

General maintenance, gardening, cleaning and tiling. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas. Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email <a href="mailto:charlie.sutera76@gmail.com">charlie.sutera76@gmail.com</a>.

Estia Health Leopold is a Residential Aged Care home and has availability for respite and permanent vacancies and with <u>50%</u> of their respite fees for December and January. Call Gabrielle on 0416 336 841 if you would like to have a look at our wonderful home and find out more details on respite care. **52 Ash Road, Leopold. Ph: 5250 2156.** 

