

The Living Word

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

10 December 2023

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

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 all 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 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.

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

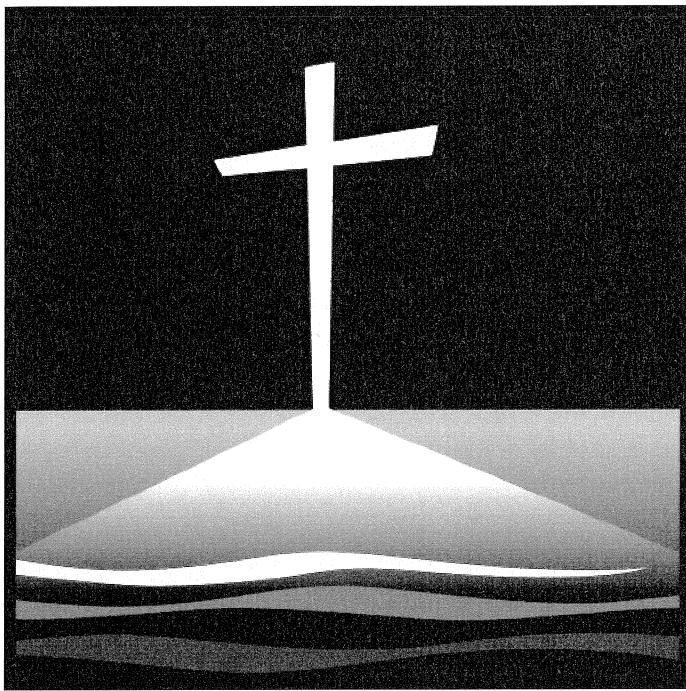
1. I will hear what the Lord God has
to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice 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 Pt 3:8-14

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 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.



Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:*

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

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.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

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HOLY TRINITY

CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Family Our Lady Star of the Sea Holy Trinity
101 Hitchcock Av 68 John Dory Drive 34 Stevens St
Barwon Heads **Ocean Grove** **Queenscliff**

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 J Sticklen
Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutera
Safeguarding & Admin Support: Ms Jennie Ryan
Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Sr Nola Morrissy RSM

For all parish ministries, including Holy Communion to the Sick, RCIA, Baptism & Sacramental Program, Men Alive, Faith Development & Spirituality Group, St Vincent de Paul local Conference, Trinity Aid for Refugees, etc., please visit:

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY

34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225

Telephone: (03) 5258 1673

Email: queenscliff@cam.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. Kerry Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

BARWON HEADS: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 9:00am
QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Visit our website for all information or contact Parish office
www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/

COLUMBARIUM

Please visit www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Enrolments are open for 2024.

Please visit our website for enrolment form and all information:
<https://holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-2/>

Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

Recently Deceased: Joan Lafferty and Donna Flynn.

Anniversaries 10th December to 16th December: Bonnie Ryan, Maureen Richards, Matthew McCormack, Frank Duffy, Jack Meredith, Dulcie Hume, Peter Maishman, Kathleen Kelly, Hilda Denneman, Albie Trask and Johanna Koster.

Please pray for those who are Sick: Elly Anwyl, Naomi Bianco, Denise Blake, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Ron & Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Brian Cotter, Jack Davin, Pat Dickeson, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Gloria Forbes, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Martin & Mary Grundy, Ben Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Peter Harrington, Jeannette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Robert Hurley, Melissa Keogh, Gary Kingsbury, Hilda Koertjes, Margaret Lomas, Toni Lukauskas, George Marshall, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Frank Nelson, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Picc, Mavourneen Ray, Margaret Renwick (Snr), Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Jeannett Stevens, Mary Sullivan, Pam Sullivan, Kevin Teasdale, 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: 17th December at 9:00am:

(C) Michael Kirkman (L) Monica Meagher (SM) Janine Fitzpatrick, Dan O'Meara (W) Remo & Naomi Bianco.

QUEENSCLIFF: 17th December at 11:00am:

(C) Bob Merriman (L) John Hanan (SM) Angela Hatch (W) Sandra Gould.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 12th December at 10:00am:

Greg Carey & Daniella Sutera.

** NEWS & EVENTS **

If you need 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.

For all Safeguarding updates, please visit the parish website:

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.

SACRAMENT OF ANNOINTING OF THE SICK
will take place at each Mass centre this weekend.

CHOIR PRACTICE for our Advent Ecumenical Service and Christmas will be held on **Thursday 14th December** at **7:00pm** at **Holy Trinity Church**. Fr Darien will lead this rehearsal.

Parish volunteers – we need you this Advent and Christmas season! Volunteers who will be attending Mass at either Mass Centre over the Advent and Christmas season are invited to place their name on a list in the Narthex of each Church. We require volunteers for Advent and Christmas Masses - Welcomers, Lector, Commentator, Special Minister, Gift Bearers and Collectors. Thank you!

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au. Details on church noticeboards.

Melbourne Overseas Mission Annual Appeal will be held this weekend (9-10 December). *Thank you for your generosity and support.*

Madonna Magazine Summer Edition 2023/24: free copies of this lovely edition are available to take home or share in the narthex of each Mass centre.

Trinity Aid for Refugees (TAR): to donate directly to Wesley Church Welcome Place: BSB 633 000, Account 160 305 066. Website: www.queenscliffra.org.

Interested in volunteering at Arcare (Point Lonsdale) for Bible readings to residents? Arcare is looking for a volunteer on the first Sunday of the month to run Bible readings for residents. The current volunteer is away and this will be a temporary arrangement. Date can be changed to suit. WWCC and National Police Check are required. If you are interested, please contact Sr Nola Morrissy via the parish office.

Christmas Concert: Music at the Basilica invites you to our annual Christmas Concert at 7.30pm on Friday 15th December at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong. This year, the Windfire Choir, orchestra and soloists will present the **Christmas Oratorio** by Saint-Saens and **Fantasia on Christmas Carols** by Vaughan Williams. Tickets from www.trybooking.com/CFGTN.

Free lunchtime organ recitals: Mondays from 12:30-1:15pm at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong. **Monday 11 December:** David Macfarlane. **Monday 18 December:** Frank De Rosso. All welcome.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS AND SERVICE TIMETABLE 2023

Available on the website:

<https://holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/mass-times/advent-christmas-2023/>

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday 11th December – St Damasus (Memorial)

Tuesday 12th December – Our Lady of Guadalupe (Memorial)

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Wednesday 13th December – St Lucy (Memorial)

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Thursday 14th December – St John of the Cross (Memorial)

No morning Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

11:45am St Aloysius End of Year & Graduation Mass
at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

1:30pm Requiem Mass for the late Mrs Joan Lafferty
at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Friday 15th December – Friday of the 2nd week of Advent

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

9:30am St Joseph's College Staff Mass, Newtown

Saturday 16th December – Saturday of the 2nd week of Advent

Sunday 17th December – THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

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** ADVENT SERVICE OF READINGS & CAROLS **

You are warmly invited to an ecumenical *Advent Service of Readings & Carols*

Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 7:00pm

at Holy Trinity Church, 34 Stevens Street Queenscliff.

A rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday 14th December at 7:00pm
at Holy Trinity Church

Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome to participate.

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Thought for the Week:

Sometimes your only available transportation
is a leap of faith.

- Margaret Shepard.

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CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, gardening, cleaning and tiling. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas. Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email charlie.sutera76@gmail.com.

SPREADING THE NEWS

Meet your PPC member – Adrian Redfern (by Susan Weston)

We shifted to Point Lonsdale 5 years ago from Wangaratta & found Queenscliff to be a very vibrant, enthusiastic & welcoming parish community. It is a fairly small congregation & most are known to one another. The hospitality ladies also do a great job with their monthly 'Souper Sundays', etc.

I became a member of PPC during the 'covid' period. Von Philp, who I met through the choir, suggested I put my name forward. Prior to joining PPC, I had no other official involvement with the parish & this is my first experience with parish councils.

Currently, I'm involved with the choir, reading & commentating, and attend faith development meetings. Also involved with Queenscliff RAR refugee advocacy group & Barwon gaol visitation with Catholic Care Victoria. I am also a member of the parish OH&S Committee.

My interests include caravanning, cycling, motorbiking, renovation projects & family history.

My hopes:

- Finding ways to address declining church revenues, COVID has affected our revenue. Our aging buildings need ongoing maintenance & new & future initiatives will need funding.
- Listen to & engage with younger generations particularly from school communities. Maureen Earls is making a start by promoting and organising our Parish Concert.
- As a 3 Church Parish we are able to build on our shared experiences – e.g. Mass, Sacraments, faith awareness, looking out for each other while at the same time recognising that each Church has a way of doing this.

For more information about the PPC, please contact the Parish Office:

5258 1673 | queenscliff@cam.org.au visit www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au:

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Anthony & Letitia Dowling
with the friendly team you know and trust.

2 Park Lane, Ocean Grove VIC 3226

Phone: 5255 5655

Email: info@oceaneyes.com.au

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St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme ("NILS")

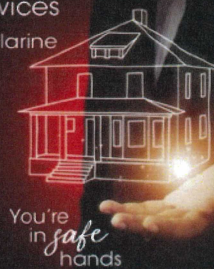
Geelong Vinnies NILS provides people on pensions & low incomes with loans up to \$1500 for essentials such as whitegoods, TVs, computers, medical & dental services, car repairs, etc... with absolutely no interest or fees! For further information, contact Vinnies NILS Tel 5229 8829 or email enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au.



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Transfer Services
Geelong & Bellarine

Looking to buy, sell
or transfer property?

Contact Frank Nelson
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bellarine@npts.com.au



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hands