

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

17 December 2023

First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the
poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of
salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and
praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her
nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me
blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and
for all things give thanks to God, because
this is what God expects you to do in Christ
Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the
gift of prophecy with contempt; think before
you do anything – hold on to what is good
and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect
and holy; and may you all be kept safe and
blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has
called you and he will not fail you.

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 Jn1:6-8.19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,



as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through
him.

He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

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HOLY TRINITY

CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Family 101 Hitchcock Av Barwon Heads	Our Lady Star of the Sea 68 John Dory Drive Ocean Grove	Holy Trinity 34 Stevens St Queenscliff
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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 Sutura
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://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-2/>

Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

Recently Deceased: Anthony Nnupu and Michael Roberts.

Anniversaries 17th December to 23rd December: Kathleen McLean, Kevin Murray, Stanley Taylor, Des Hayes, Des Sullivan, John Charleston, Thelma Hirst, Jack van Elst, Margaret Vagg, James Collins and David Hanlon.

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 Koerntjes, 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, Cathy Williams, 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: 24th December at 9:00am:

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

COUNTERS: Tuesday 19th December at 10:00am:

Judy Compton and Fay Neville.

** 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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS AND SERVICE TIMETABLE 2023

Available on the website:

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

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR: re-opening on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 10:00am.

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!

Christmas Masses at Ocean Grove: children are welcome to dress as angels and shepherds for Christmas Masses.

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

Columban calendars on sale in all 3 churches. \$10.00 each.

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

*Together we pray for the children receiving
the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend.
Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.*

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.

News from St Vincent de Paul Society: The Queenscliff Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to say a big thank you to Mr. Mike Hardy who is retiring as Conference President after more than six years at the helm and many more years as a Conference member. Thank you, Mike, for your expert counsel and leadership over the years. We would also like to welcome Mr. Shane McKinley who is assuming the post of President of the Conference. Welcome Shane and thank you for taking over the mantle as Conference leader. We all look forward to working with you. – SVDP.

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK AND CHRISTMAS

Monday 18th December – Monday of 3rd Sunday week of Advent

Tuesday 19th December – Tuesday of 3rd Sunday week of Advent

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
7:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service at
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 20th December – Wednesday of 3rd Sunday week of Advent

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff
1:00pm Funeral for Michael Roberts at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff
7:00pm Ecumenical Readings & Carols Service
at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Thursday 21st December – Thursday of 3rd Sunday week of Advent

9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Friday 22nd December – Friday of 3rd Sunday week of Advent

9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 23rd December – Saturday of 3rd Sunday week of Advent

6:00pm Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent
at Holy Family, Barwon Heads

**Sunday 24th December – FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT
CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:00am Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent
at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
11:00am Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff
6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
8:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

**Monday 25th December – The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)
CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
11:00am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

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

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Visit: www.oceaneyes.com.au



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.

NPTS Nelson Property Transfer Services
Geelong & Bellarine

Looking to buy, sell or transfer property?

Contact Frank Nelson
0413 017 053
bellarine@npts.com.au

You're in safe hands

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.