

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
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 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.

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James
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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
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.'

PARISH DIRECTORY

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NEWSLETTER

14 — 15 December 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT— YEAR A



St. John the Baptist

The Parish has been entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco since 2000



St. Monica

Dear Friends,

The human heart desires joy. Everyone desires to have joy; every family and every people seek happiness. But what kind of joy is the Christian called to live and give witness to? It is that which comes from being close to God and of His presence in our lives. From the time of Jesus' entry into our human history by His birth at Bethlehem, the human race has received the seed of the Kingdom of God, like the soil that receives the seed with the promise of a future harvest. There is no need to look elsewhere! Jesus has come to bring joy to all, now and always. We are not speaking of a hoped for joy in the future or a joy which we will experience in paradise: as if to say that here on earth we are sad and in heaven we will be happy. No! It is not like this. We can experience even now a real joy because Jesus Himself is our joy and with Jesus, joy is like the security and the love we may experience in our family where we can be ourselves and be appreciated and affirmed without fear or judgement. Jesus is alive! He is the Risen One and He is present among us especially through God's Word and the Church's Sacraments.

Pope Francis has just written a wonderful Apostolic Letter "On the Meaning and importance of the Nativity Scene" (1/12/19)(You may pick up a copy at the back of the Church). He writes, "I wish to encourage the beautiful tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. ... Why does the Christmas creche (crib) arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realise that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins." (No. 3) (Fr. Guy)



**PARISH DIARY
December 2019**

14 Saturday, St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

- 9.00am Mass at St John's
- 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation at St. John's
- 6.00pm Mass at St. John's

15 Sunday, THIRD-SUNDAY of ADVENT

- 8.30am Mass at St Monica's
- 10.00am Mass at St. John's

16 Monday,

- 9.00am Mass at St John's

17 Tuesday,

- 9.00am Mass at St John's

18 Wednesday,

- 8.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 9.00am Mass at St. John's

19 Thursday,

- 12.00pm Mass at St John's

20 Friday,

- 9.00am Mass at St John's

21 Saturday, St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor

- 9.00am Mass at St John's
- 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation at St. John's
- 6.00pm Mass at St. John's

22 Sunday, FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

- 8.30am Mass at St Monica's
- 10.00am Mass at St. John's

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish office will be closed from Wednesday 25 December 2019 till Monday 6 January 2020.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2020

If you have ordered a Columban Calendar and not paid for it and collected it, please see Threesa K. Dona during office hours. Thank you!

**EVENING NOVENA MASSES
IN HONOUR OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

Where? St Paul's Catholic Church, Bridgewater.
When? At 7.00 PM from 15-23 December.

Parish Volunteers

To meet legal requirements as a result of the Royal Commission on sexual abuse, all parishes must ensure all staff and applicable volunteers have required compliance checks in place, namely a **current Police Check** as well as **Working with Vulnerable People Registration**. We are compiling a list of the status of all these checks and you may find that we contact you to arrange to have these checks in place if you do not already have them. Please contact Sr. Pamela Davis at the parish office as soon as possible. *Fr. Guy Riolo*

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND COMMUNION

The new rosters for Sunday Masses (January—February 2020) are available. Please collect a copy from the church Foyer. Thank you! Threesa K. Dona.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS

Eight cards per pack at \$4.00 per packet. If interested, please contact Des Mortimer on 62726023. Thank you!

**Made for Each Other Summer School
January 20-24 in Hobart**

The Made for Each Other Summer School will be held from January 20-24, 2020 at St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart. It will be a unique event for young Catholics aged 18-35. The Summer School will offer a series of lectures from a well-qualified faculty, group discussions, field trips, prayer time and social occasions to create a unique experience of the beauty, goodness and truth of the Church's teaching on relationships, sexuality, marriage and the family. For more information please contact Ben Smith on 6208 6036 or ben.smith@aohtas.org.au. A web page with detailed information on the event can be viewed at: bit.ly/2oCtnOU.

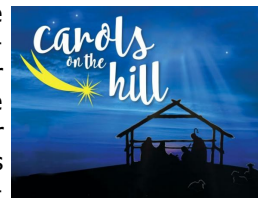
Christmas Masses -

Ministers of the Word and Communion

We are looking for Ministers of the Word and Ministers of Communion to serve at the Family Mass and on Christmas Day. If you would be available please put your name on the lists in the foyer. Note – an extra Minister of Communion is required for the chapel at these Masses.

Carols on the Hill—Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be part of bringing the spirit of Christmas to Hobart this Christmas? We are looking for volunteers for the annual Carols on the Hill. This will be taking place on Saturday 21 December at Guilford Young College, Hobart. Roles include: making decorations, event set-up, and ticket collection. Please contact Ella Tobin via ella.tobin@aohtas.org.au or 0468 601 517 ASAP. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS EVE 2019 – FAMILY MASS 6.00PM

Children are invited to participate in the telling of the story of the Nativity during the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. We will have a short rehearsal after 10am Mass on Sunday 15th and 22nd December. Children wishing to take part are asked to be at the Church on Christmas Eve at 5pm. All children are welcome to participate as angels, shepherds and general townfolk. We do have costumes but if your child wishes to be a particular character, please feel free to create your own outfit. We look forward to seeing your child, grandchild or special friend. For further information, please contact Mary Parsissons on 0448 259 747 or mparsiss@bigpond.net.au.



OUR SICK - Please remember in your prayers:

Maila Beekmeijer, Lani Baron, Alida Beric, Nell Smith, Peter Drake, Eileen Sherrin, Don Ambler, Doreen Street, Fr Bob Curmi, Frances Direen, Anne Hansch, Tom Carty, Ken Young, Judy Pigden, Ian Irvine, Robert Campbell and Mary Dowd.

Prayers for the Deceased

Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially Augusto Di Tommaso, Marie Knight, Esther Underwood, Gwen Foster, Graziano Ceron, Peter Crane, Stephen Cooper, Steven Stivicic, Stan Brach, John O'Brien, Kevin Walsh, Anna Zito, Lena Trzeciak, Peter Imlach, Lynn Priest and Rodolfo Gonzales. Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

WEEKEND MASSES

St John's, Glenorchy

- 6.00pm Saturday
- 10.00am Sunday

St. Monica's, Chigwell

- 8.30am Sunday

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. John's, Glenorchy

- 9.00am Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
- 12.00pm Thursday

ROSARY

- At St. John's, Glenorchy
- 8.40am every Saturday

RECONCILIATION

- At St. John's, Glenorchy
- 9.30am & 5.15pm Sat.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND ROSARY

- At St. John's, Glenorchy
- 8.00am Wednesday

LEGION OF MARY

- at St. John's, Glenorchy
- 6.45 pm Every Tuesday

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER GROUP

- at St. John's, Glenorchy
- 1st Wednesday of the month at 9.30am

COUNTERS' ROSTERS

This Week: 16 Dec

Roberta Puckett's Team

Next Week : 23 Dec

Bob Mochrie's Team

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Envelopes: \$ 1,018.00

Loose Plate: \$ 1,007.25

Direct Deposit: \$ 270.00

TOTAL: \$ 2,295.25

Week's Budget: \$ 2,500.00

Deficit \$ 204.75