

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 30 NOVEMBER - 01 DECEMBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tuesday: 9am-4pm, Friday: 1pm-5pm)

Corrie (Wed-Thurs, 9am - 3pm)

In those days before the flood, they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away.



Swords Into Plowshares

Who does not think about or prepare for the future? We save for a rainy day: to get married, to buy a home, to send the children to college, and to retire in comfort. We also protect ourselves against future misfortunes with varieties of insurance.

Jesus' advice to his contemporaries, "Stay awake!" and be prepared for an imminent event, ([Mt 24:42-43](#)). However, future events are not obvious for Middle Easterners.

Present Focus

Generally speaking, people in the Middle East are unable and unwilling to think about the future. Only God knows that, and it is futile for humans to try to discover it.

People of that world live entirely for the present. Jesus chides them for worrying about tomorrow and what they will eat, drink, or wear ([Mt 6:25-34](#)). He instructs them to ask God only for today's bread and not a week's supply ([Mt 6:11](#)).

Where, then, did Sunday's exhortation to "stay awake" and "be watchful" for the "advent of the Son of Man" come from? Did Jesus say these words, or were they placed on his lips by his disciples?

Present Frustration

Scholars point out that Jesus frequently proposed behaviours alternative to those favoured in his culture. Obsessive and narrow focus on the present can cause a person to miss events just around the corner (which are also present but slightly delayed).

By the time Matthew compiled his Gospel, around 80 to 85 C.E., Jesus had been dead and risen nearly fifty years. About ten to fifteen years prior to Matthew's work, the failed revolt of the Judeans resulted in the utter demolition of their Temple by Titus and his Roman legions (70 C.E.). Still, the Son of Man had not yet returned, and many of Jesus' original listeners had already died. Christians were frightened and becoming impatient.

Matthew's community was further agitated by its vocal Judean opponents. Their taunt to the Christians ran something like this: "Where is your 'coming Son of Man?' You keep saying 'in *this* generation,' but you are deceived. Remember Daniel's inability to calculate and predict? You are similarly misguided. Give it up!"

Hope for the "Future"

For Sunday's reading, Matthew has borrowed and redirected parables from [Mark 13](#) to console and instruct his beleaguered community. The Son of Man gave his word; he definitely will return ([Mt 24:35](#)).

No one can calculate the exact time because his coming will be unexpected, just as the flood was for Noah's contemporaries ([Mt 24:37-39](#)). For this reason, the Christian must be ever watchful. The parables about the two in the field ([Mt 24:40](#)) and two grinding ([Mt 24:41](#)) give no clue as to which will be taken and which will remain. Each person must be vigilant like the good homeowner, wary of thieves and vandals ([Mt 24:43](#)). Each must be ever prepared for the Lord's sudden return.

For our present-oriented ancestors in the faith, the ongoing delay of Jesus' expected imminent return forced them to think "future." When this delay had reached fifty years and more in Matthew's community, the evangelist was able to force his present-oriented people to begin to think of at least a slightly remote, if not yet very far off, future.

The challenge to us is quite different. We are so terminally future oriented, often to a distant future (college for the infant; retirement for the new worker), that the present is frequently missed.

With our futures relatively well-secured, we need to be wakeful to and watchful of the present lest misfortune creep up on us before we realize it.

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NEXT WEEK: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10; Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-9; Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12



VERMONT CHILDREN'S CENTRE

At St Timothy's School Ground
Expressions of interest are being taken.
Please call: Celine on (03) 98075208 or
email at info@vermontchildcare.com.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 2019 CHRISTMAS HAMPER AND GIFT APPEAL



The Society is again providing Christmas hampers (including presents for children and adults) to about 40 families and singles in our area. Donations of items suitable for Christmas hampers are welcome. Gift tags by gender and age group are available in the Church foyer to facilitate the donation of suitable presents. The tag chosen should be attached to the donated present so that it can be allocated to the appropriate child or adult.

Hampers and presents will be made up and delivered on Saturday morning 21st December. It would be appreciated if donated presents and/or hamper items could be provided no later than the weekend prior to distribution i.e. the weekend of 14th / 15th December.

Cash donations to enable the purchase of hamper goods, gift cards and presents are also welcome and can be deposited in the church poor boxes. (Could you please supply your name and address if a receipt is required.)

Thank you for your charity and generosity.

~ St Vincent de Paul Society
Forest Hill Conference



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

- 21 December: ♦ 6:45 PM - Advent Reconciliation
- 24 December: ♦ 6:00 PM - Family Mass;
♦ 10:00 PM - Evening Mass of Christmas
- 25 December: ♦ 10:30 AM - Christmas Day Mass
- 1 January: ♦ 10:00 AM - New Year's Day Mass



Nominations for the **PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL** is concluded. Stay tune for the next update of a vibrant and parish - oriented council.

May we again remind volunteers who have not applied and or submitted their **WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK** to please comply as this is a state legislation for all volunteers in a Religious organisation.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Arthur Greal, Mary McEwan, Jack Taya,
Mario Cardenti, Margaret Jones, Andrej Kawalevski,
June Dorling, Eugena D' Souza, Monica Bone,
Garry Halourson, Else Rasmussen, Gabriel Soosadasan,
Josephine Cannestra, Maria Cassano, Damiano Viola,
Giosue Iaccarino, Francesco Boccaccio.

ROSTERS: 6:00PM 9:30AM

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

♦ This Week	S. Samarasundera Sr June	E. Mendes L. Cigana A. Yee
♦ Next week	S. Chan P. Naughtin	P. Kawalevski L. Cigana B. Yee

PROCLAIMERS

♦ This Week	C: P. D' Cruz P: R. Greal	T. Fernandes K. Barritt
♦ Next week	C: P. Kelly P: H. Lobo	P. O' Reilly B. Ross

COUNTERS

This Week: Margaret Leach / Fela Colasanti
Next Week: Owen Greal / Anthony Yeo

SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

- ♦ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass)
- ♦ **Reconciliation**
- ♦ **Marriage**
- ♦ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ♦ **Funerals**



The Sacraments

2019 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION

- ♦ For children attending St. Timothy's school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ♦ For children not attending St. Timothy's school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 5:00 PM

MASS TIMES:

- ♦ Saturday: 6:00 PM
 - ♦ Sunday: 9:30 AM
 - ♦ Indian Mass: 12:00 NN every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
 - ♦ Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
 - ♦ Adoration 7:30 PM every 1st Friday of the month
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or ANH TOAN 0422 295 115.

WEEKDAYS:

- ♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am (Strathdon)
- ♦ 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am (Livingstone)
- ♦ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ♦ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ♦ Every Friday, 10:00 am



AROUND THE CHURCH—THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY

Catholic Resources : melbournecatholic.org.au; cathnews.com

VINNIES DELIVERS MORE DROUGHT RELIEF

The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council has commenced the rollout of the second round of the Morrison Government's drought support funding program.

Last month, Vinnies was invited to help distribute funds from the Government's Drought Community Support Initiative.

National council chief executive Toby O'Connor said \$15 million will be distributed to people experiencing hardship in drought-affected areas across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia with eligible farmers, farm workers and farm suppliers and contractors receiving a one-off payment of \$3000.

"We are ready to roll, and I encourage people who think they might be eligible to visit the website for more information, including frequently asked questions. "Alternatively, people can call the Drought Relief Team on 1300 846 643 for assistance.

"The process will be as straight forward as possible for people who are seeking help under very difficult circumstances. "The Federal Government has earmarked eligible Local Government Areas. Half will be serviced by the St Vincent de Paul Society and the other half by The Salvation Army."

The Society's Members in local conferences will assist the National Council to support individuals and families who request additional help.

DREAMS OF A NEW CHURCH BECOME A REALITY

After years of hope, prayers and even a letter to the Pope, a Parramatta parish's dream of a new church has finally come true. Source: *Catholic Outlook*.

Parishioners of St Madeline Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst, gathered on Sunday for an emotional ceremony to celebrate the opening of their new church which was 33 years in the making.

"It's terrific it's what we've always dreamed about. From the very beginning, we dreamed about having a proper church, and it's now complete," former parish priest Fr Chris Dixon said..

Such was the significance of this celebration, not all attendees could fit into the brand new building. "Let us go rejoicing into the house of the Lord, even if not all of us can fit into this beautiful new church. What a sight to behold," Parramatta Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. joked at the beginning of his homily.

Bishop Long was the principal celebrant during the dedication of the church, with parish priest Fr Vincent Savarimuthu by his side and Fr Dixon among those concelebrating Mass.

During his thank you speech following the Eucharistic celebration, an emotional Fr Savarimuthu said he hoped the new church will strengthen the community in its mission. "It has been a great journey for all of us, and God has made it possible to witness this historic event in the faith journey of St Madeline's parish community".

A SIMPLE CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The importance of championing diversity and inclusion were key themes at Australian Catholic University's fifth Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast at Parliament House in Melbourne yesterday. More than 150 guests attended, including more than 45 faith leaders and 40 Victorian state parliamentarians.

Victorian Deputy Premier James Merlino and Opposition Leader Michael O'Brien gave speeches that noted that our strength as a community rested in our shared values of diversity and inclusion.

The leaders of five different faiths delivered readings on the importance of religious freedom, leadership, service and community harmony, and prayed for wise deliberations and good governance.

Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli said the breakfast was a "simple and joyful celebration of our freedom in Australia to practise our religion".

"It is inspiring to see members of Parliament sharing a coffee with religious leaders and listening to them with respect. We need more moments like this in contemporary Australia," Archbishop Comensoli said.

ACU vice-chancellor Greg Craven said Australians were extremely fortunate to live in a country that valued human rights and the ability to observe our own faith collectively as a community".

VINNIES BUSH FIRE APPEAL

Bushfires are currently devastating several communities across Australia. Vinnies is on the ground helping people as they deal with the immediate aftermath of fires, and we will continue to be there as they rebuild their lives in the long term. This emergency is unprecedented, and frighteningly, it is forecast to get even worse.

PLEASE DONATE URGENTLY so Vinnies can be there for everyone needing our help. For more details please visit: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au>

FINANCIAL REPORTS ARE WORKING: POPE

Questions about Vatican finances, especially those involving a real estate deal in London, are serious but they also are a sign that reforms begun by Pope Benedict XVI are working, Pope Francis said yesterday. Source: *CNS*.

"This is the first time the lids have been taken off the pots by someone inside and not outside" the Vatican, the Pope told reporters on his return flight to Rome from Japan.

Pope Francis spoke with reporters in general about the two countries and answered eight questions, including the recent Vatican finance scandal involving a large loan to develop a London property.

Pope Francis said no one should be bothered by the fact that the Vatican invests the money it collects from Catholics around the world. "The sum of Peter's Pence arrives and what do I do? Put it in a drawer? No, that's bad administration. I try to make an investment."

Peter's Pence is a papal fund used for charity, but also to support the running of the Roman Curia and Vatican embassies around the world. The London deal seems to have involved "things that don't seem 'clean,' but the report did not come from outside." Instead, under finance reform procedures begun by Pope Benedict XVI and continuing under Pope Francis, "it was the internal auditor general, who said, 'Look, here is something that doesn't add up.' He came to me."

Pope Francis also spoke about the nuclear weapons and nuclear energy, nonviolence and the just-war theory and about political unrest in Hong Kong, Chile and several other Latin American countries.

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

The Liturgical year has turned full circle and we begin the new year with the first Sunday of Advent. This year we will read from the Gospel of Matthew written sometime in the 80s, approximately 50 years after the death of Jesus. To hear the 'good news' Matthew offers, it is helpful to step inside his community, to get a sense of the colours and textures used in his portrait: the struggles within the Judaism and Christian community, and within the Roman empire. He is urging his community to be ready for the day when Jesus will return. For us, amidst the signs of Christmas and toys, we too need to be reminded that the focus of this time is Jesus. Jesus can be lost amidst the glitter and excitement if we are not attentive.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE:

Commentator: As we light this first Advent candle, we hope for the fuller brightness that is to come. We want it to remind us to watch for what God will give us, and to see what He has already given.

ALL: O God we want to thank You for Your gift of Christ, not just with words, but also with deeds. Help us to be grateful every day. Help us to meet our friends with understanding, our work with willingness, our responsibilities with patience. You have given us so much: help us to give even a little to those who need us and our gifts. Amen.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you ask us to stay awake and stand ready.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you came to gather all nations into eternal

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to the mountain of the Lord.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 2: 1-5*

The people are on trial for their gross infidelity to God who has given them the best upbringing. They assume their grand liturgies put them at rights with God while they ignore the injustice and oppression in the society. The reading provides the outcome of this divine purging.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **(R.)**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **(R.)**

4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

SECOND READING: *Romans 13: 11-14*

Paul speaks about the decisive time of fulfilment, the kairós, the period of transition from the present age of sin to the long-awaited age of fulfilment. The time has come, our salvation is near.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL : *Matthew 24: 17-44*

Even in the struggles within Judaism faith, and within the Roman Empire, Matthew's 'good news' is that Jesus is 'God with us' – Emmanuel. This is the name announced at his birth, and the final promise Jesus leaves his disciples, 'I am with you always.' Christians are alerted to live to God's reign because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



The Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope: We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Rom 15: 12-13)