

## ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

07 – 08 DECEMBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

Corrie (Wednesday & Thursday: 9am - 3pm)



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (09 December)

The birth of Jesus is not something that happens, so to speak, by God dropping his Word out of a clear sky. It is indeed the beginning of something radically fresh, a new creation. But at the same time it has been coming to birth since the very beginning of creation. The Word who was in the beginning with God is always moving towards Bethlehem to be born, and God prepares the way. God prepares through the graces and gifts of the First Covenant; through the lives of the holy people of that covenant; and above all in the birth and the life of the Virgin Mary. God is—all the time—making a space into which his Word Incarnate may come.

We live in a world abounding in sin and sinners. But it is a world that denies the existence of sin. Why is that? Because sin is an offense against God, and many do not believe in God. Therefore, if there is no God, there cannot be any sin. But we are surrounded by sin and read about it and see it in the news media every day—murder, adultery, abortion, sodomy, theft, lies and so forth. Because of original sin and concupiscence, in various ways we all offend God, some mortally and some

venially. Today, however, we celebrate the feast of one of us, one woman, who never committed a sin—Mary of Nazareth, the Immaculate Mother of God.

What is the meaning of the term, "Immaculate Conception"? It does not mean the conception of Jesus. It refers to the conception of Mary in the normal way through the marital embrace of her parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim. Because of the first sin of Adam and Eve, all human beings are conceived without sanctifying grace, the life of the soul. Since the coming of Christ, we can attain grace through baptism, but we are conceived and born without God's grace. The Church teaches that God endowed Mary's soul with grace from the first moment of her creation, so she was never under the power of original sin.

"Immaculate" means without stain. Since sin is a "stain" on the soul, which should be pure in the sight of God, the Church believes that Mary was conceived without the "stain" of original sin, which means the lack of God's grace. One proof of this is taken from the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary, "Hail, Mary, full of grace" Because she was full of grace, Mary was most pleasing to God in all she was and did.

The prayers of today's Mass stress that Mary was "preserved" from sin. Jesus died on the Cross, rose from the dead and accomplished our redemption. He is the fountain of supernatural life for us. We partake of that through faith, baptism and the sacraments. So the Church teaches that Mary was preserved from original sin by the foreseen merits of Jesus, her son and her redeemer. Mary is, therefore, the first redeemed, the first Christian; she is perfectly redeemed in every way—in soul and body and emotions.

Mary had a special mission in the redemption of mankind. So God created her as a "fitting dwelling place" for his son Jesus, who crushed the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15); Satan never had any power over him. He was to be born of a woman who was totally free from sin, never under the power of the devil. Just as God prepared a sinless paradise for Adam and Eve, so Mary is a "second" sinless paradise where the Son of God will dwell nine months before his birth in Bethlehem.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J. From the November 2007 issue of [Homiletic & Pastoral Review](#).

## 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

### NEXT WEEK: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6,10;  
Second Reading: James 5: 7-10;  
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11



**MELBOURNE ANNUAL APPEAL**

**(MOM) 2019**

*As we prepare for the celebration of the coming of Christ, let us remember those who are still waiting to hear the GOOD NEWS!*

We will have a special collection at all Masses this weekend to support the MOM Appeal.

Your gift will assist:

- ◆ Improving health, nutrition, hygiene, and family life
- ◆ Providing food, clothing, blankets and medical supplies
- ◆ Development of self help and self reliance
- ◆ Education in primary, secondary, adult and youth activities
- ◆ Promotion of agriculture and cattle schemes
- ◆ Provision and training of Lay Helpers

\*Note: Tax deductibility receipt is available for donations of \$2 and Over to **Melbourne Overseas Mission**



**VERMONT CHILDREN'S CENTRE**



At St Timothy's School Ground  
6 weeks to 5 years old includes  
3 and 4 Year Old Kinder

A funded Kindergarten program available.

Expressions of interest are being taken.

Please call: Celine on (03) 98075208 or email at  
info@vermontchildcare.com.au

**OPEN DAY FRIDAY— 13 DECEMBER**

**8:00 AM—4:30 PM**

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY  
2019 CHRISTMAS HAMPER AND GIFT APPEAL**

Donations of items suitable for Christmas hampers and or cash gifts for children and adults in our area are still welcome until the weekend of 14th / 15th December.

Gift tags by gender and age group are available in the Church foyer.

Let us make their Christmas a joyful one. Thank you.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER**

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10)*

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent, and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk. Our time, our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

<b>ROSTERS:</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>
<b>EUCHARIST MINISTERS</b>		
◆ This Week	S. Chan P. Naughtin	P. Kawalevski L. Cigana B. Yee
◆ Next week	C. Buchan H. Grealy	A. Benedict C. L. Tay E. Mendes
<b>PROCLAIMERS</b>		
◆ This Week	C: P. Kelly P: H. Lobo	P. O' Reilly B. Ross
◆ Next week	C: R. Grealy P: P. D'Cruz	B. McKenna R. Yee
<b>COUNTERS</b>		
This Week: Owen Grealy / Anthony Yeo		
Next Week: Raj Fonn / Violet Fonn		



**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



## 'IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT CHILDREN'

Australian Catholic University's Professor Michele Riondino, an expert in canon law and children's rights, says all adults – not just policymakers – are duty-bound to remove fear from children's lives.

In a speech delivered at Yale University on the occasion of the seventh Distressed Children & Infants International Conference on Child Rights, Professor Riondino's call to action implored every adult to move beyond well-intentioned declarations and embrace the "dutiful challenge" to protect children from harm.

"The duty for us adults to recognise a moral leadership to the legitimate interests of the child does not derive, in the final analysis, from a mere compassion for children, that is, from considering every child as subjects who are constitutionally weak," he said.

"Rather, comprehending that their weakness and innocence create an explicit duty on the part of whoever is preparing to work with them. Only in this way we can help them to flourish, and never to confine their legitimate interests." He also noted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its implications in protecting children's interests.

"There emerges a clear reminder that every adult should commit him/herself not only to contribute to the child's growth but, in particular, to the child's personal potential, limiting fear and uncertainty in a way that renders more easily children's mature and responsible integration into society."

## WELFARE CHANGES A CASH GRAB

Australians made redundant mid-career will be pushed into poverty through a revived proposal to change the welfare system, the federal opposition says. Source: *News.com.au*.

The Morrison Government is attempting to make changes to social security in a bid to save more than \$290 million over the forward estimates.

Labor's social services spokeswoman Linda Burney described the changes as a cash grab that will hurt people when they need their savings the most.

One of the three changes in the bill would make Australians wait up to six months before applying for some welfare payments, if they have \$18,000 or more in liquid assets. Currently the maximum waiting period applies to people with \$11,500 or more of liquid assets, such as money in the bank or redundancy payments that haven't been paid out.

The wait time changes apply to Youth Allowance, Austudy, Sickness Allowance and Newstart.

The draft laws also include changes to the pension, by stopping supplement payments to pensioners who are overseas for more than six weeks. Payments will be stopped immediately when moving overseas permanently.

Liberal MP Fiona Martin said the changes would ensure welfare was given to people who need it the most. She said it brings the law into line with community expectations that migrants shouldn't expect immediate help from Australian taxpayers, particularly if they move close to retirement age.

## POPE AND CARDINALS DISCUSS GREATER ROLE FOR LAITY

Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals have reviewed aspects of the draft of the apostolic constitution that would govern the Roman Curia, including a greater role for lay men and women. Source: *Crux*.

The Vatican press office issued a statement yesterday saying the council also discussed the relationship between the Curia – the Church's central administrative offices – and the bishops conferences around the world. It included, "the relations between the Curia and the episcopal conferences and the presence of the lay faithful, men and women, in decision-making roles in the offices of the Curia and in other bodies of the Church, and to study the theological-pastoral basis of these aspects."

Additionally, the council also listened to "some considerations" on the "elaboration of the post synodal document".

With regard to the proposed apostolic constitution, provisionally titled *Praedicate Evangelium* ("Preach the Gospel"), the council continues to receive "suggestions" on the new document.

The Pope and the Council of Cardinals, the Vatican said, will continue to "read and evaluate" the proposals at their next meeting, which is scheduled for February.

## AUSTRALIANS BACK RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE NOT INSTITUTIONS

Australians support religious freedom protections for individuals but less for institutions such as schools or hospitals run by religious organisations, a new report has found. Source: *The Age*.

The findings do not "bode well for the prospect of any robust protection of religious freedom in this country," says the Centre for Independent Studies report, which is being released as the Morrison Government announced it has delayed its religious discrimination bill until 2020.

"This is because religious freedom depends, in part, on the preservation of distinctive religious institutions and communities," the report says.

"To maintain their distinctiveness, such institutions and communities need to have the freedom to select their members and employees on religiously-grounded criteria.

"Without this freedom being protected in some way from the increasing reach of anti-discrimination law, these institutions and communities will not be able to fulfil their roles and social functions."

According to one of the report's authors, Monica Wilkie, this could cast light on why the Government is finding such political resistance to its bill, which would not extend protections to hire and fire on religious grounds to those religious organisations that engage primarily in "commercial activities".

Australians misunderstood how placing such limitations on church organisations would eventually have a negative impact on individual religious freedom.

## INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

If John appeared in our Churches today what would we make of him? John preaches the coming of God. Nothing about him is attractive – the environment is the harsh Judean wilderness, his clothes and food are bizarre and his message ‘Repent’ is hardly an advertising slogan. And yet people come to him for baptism. People can recognise truth. It may not be attractive, some may prefer to avoid it, but we cannot fully hide from the truth. John speaks to the truth of God. God is near. God is coming. Is your life open to receive God or not?

## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

**Commentator:** We light this candle to remind us of how the way was prepared for Jesus’ coming. We hope that as Advent light increases, our own readiness may also increase.

**All:** Christ Jesus, no one is a stranger to you. You prayed, but you also understood those who never prayed. You never hurt anyone, and you were not ashamed to be crucified with common thieves.

## PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you call us to repent.

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

Christ Jesus, ask us to walk in harmony and peace.

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

Lord Jesus, you rule your people with justice.

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

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 11: 1-10

A messianic prophecy of the ideal king from David’s line. Wisdom and knowledge, insight and fear of God are evident when that ruler wields true justice in the land, with a bias towards the cause of the poor. The text envisions harmony in the natural and animal world that will attend the messianic age: a restoration of the original vision of Eden.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

**Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king’s son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth’s bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)

## SECOND READING: Romans 15: 4-9

Paul reminds his readers that the advent of Christ into their lives will require a reform, as well, of their personal relationships. The mercy of God will enable them to accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted them. Therein, they will reveal the glory of God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL : Matthew 3: 1-12

John’s message was about justice, about social change. He challenged the people to get down to the root causes of problems and uproot them. John summoned commoners, Jerusalem elites and their Roman patrons and other priestly aristocracy to repentance. Now is the time for listeners to repent and escape God’s judgment. “To prepare the way of the Lord.”

