

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

17-23 Stevens Road, Vermont, VIC 3133

Phone: (03) 9412 8499

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au

Website: www.sttimothys.org.au

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

14-15 DECEMBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

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



When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come?"

THE RIGHT QUESTION

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

We have just heard Jesus tell John that he is the One whom God is sending to save his people. The evidence can be seen in the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the mute speak.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

Rev Prof Michael Tate is currently Vicar General in the Archdiocese and is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

"THE LORD IS NEAR"

*Today the Church bids us rejoice,
The Lord is near,
indeed He is with us.*

*Let us rejoice today for those
who have said 'yes' to the call of
Jesus. Pray for our priests and
religious. Pray for the fifty men
in formation to the priesthood at
our seminary in Carlton, Corpus
Christi College.*

VOLUNTEER GRATITUDE NIGHT

FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER AT 5:00PM

ST TIMOTHY'S CHURCH

In appreciation to our volunteers for their continuous support and commitment to the parish, we would like to invite ALL volunteers to a simple feast.

Please register in the sign-off sheet available in the foyer.

Thank you and we hope to see you all!

NEXT WEEK: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14;
Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7;
Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

with FR TONY KERIN

21 December at 6:45 PM

Let every heart prepare!

Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:8)

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God’s will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

2020 STUDY OPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

• *The Parish and Pastoral Ministry in a New Environment*

• *Church History*

Contact the Academic Records Office for all study options and further information at +61 3 9412 3309

AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au;

278 Vitoria Parade, East Melbourne

www.ctc@ctc.edu.au

ROSTERS:

6:00PM

9:30AM

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

◆ This Week	C. Buchan H. Grealy	A. Benedict C.L. Tay E. Mendes
-------------	------------------------	--------------------------------------

◆ Next week	S. Samarasundera M. Italiano	L. Cigana D. Hickkman A. Yee
-------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------

PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week	C: R. Grealy P: P. D’Cruz	B. Mckenna R. Yee
-------------	------------------------------	----------------------

◆ Next week	C: H. Lobo P: P. Kelly	T. Yee T. Fernandes
-------------	---------------------------	------------------------

COUNTERS

This Week: Raj Fonn / Violet Fonn

Next Week: Peter Deayton / Lester Steele

**“THE FUTURE OF THE VERY YOUNG”
POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER**

Every child who is marginalised, abused, abandoned, without schooling, or without medical care, is a cry that rises up to God.

In each of them is Christ, who came to our world as a defenseless child; it is Christ who looks at us through the eyes of each of these children.

Let us pray that every country decides to take necessary measures to make the future of children a priority, especially the future of children who are suffering today.

Congratulations and Best wishes to our St Timothy’s Primary School Graduates

- * Nada Abdullah
- * Lachlan Buchan
- * Fraser Davis
- * Jessica Giblett
- * Tiffany Kiraly
- * Thomas Mafriaci
- * Marcus Matarazzo
- * Lachlan McCann
- * Alice Perera
- * Ysabellah Robles
- * Mackenzie Savage
- * Grace Smith
- * Jonathan Teny

AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE

at St Elizabeth’s Parish, Dandenong North on display until Friday, 10 January, 2020

Free entry and open to all age groups .

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Betty Harrison, Beck Moreland, Sonia Shafton, John Carney, Barry White, Doris Cochrane, Andrej Kawalevski, James King, Carrie Willett, Maxwell Lea, Lawrence Howes, Stephen Defina, Frank O’ Connor, Guido Cigana, Merlyn Alwis, Timothy Curtain.

SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

◆ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass)

◆ **Reconciliation**

◆ **Marriage**

◆ **Anointing of the Sick**

◆ **Funerals**



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

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



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL PILGRIMS TOLD: 'REBUILD MY CHURCH'

Thousands of young Australian Catholics have been challenged to “go out and rebuild” God’s Church on the opening day of the 2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The opening session of the Festival, which has drawn 5500 young people from across Australia, featured a Welcome to Country, high-tempo music, inspirational speakers and moments of prayer.

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, the host of the Festival as the Archbishop of Perth, welcomed pilgrims and encouraged them to bring every part of themselves to the gathering.

“You are welcome here with your questions, your hopes, your dreams. You are welcome here with your doubts and with your fears. You are welcome here with your hesitations and you’re welcome here with all your enthusiasms,” Archbishop Costelloe said. “God is real. Christ is alive. The Church of which you are a part is yearning to help you and to hear you, to teach you and to learn from you, to challenge you and to be challenged by you.”

For more information about the Festival, including speaker and performer profiles, go to www.acyf.org.au

GOVERNMENT OVERHAULS DRAFT RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION BILL

The Morrison Government has overhauled its proposed religious discrimination laws in an effort to win over faith leaders who rebuked the Coalition’s earlier attempts. Source: *ABC News*.

As flagged, the new bill will allow religious bodies – such as hospitals and aged care providers – to continue to hire people on the basis of their religion.

The other changes include defining the word “vilify” as inciting “hatred or violence” and exemptions to allow religious camps and conference centres to take faith into account when deciding to provide accommodation.

The Coalition has also changed health practitioner laws, which narrows the health professions to medicine, midwifery, nursing, pharmacy and psychology.

These workers could object to carrying out procedures that were against their faith but they could not object to treating a patient based on that patient’s faith.

That would allow a Catholic hospital to refuse to perform an abortion or IVF treatment, but not to decline treatment to a non-Catholic.

Public comment on the bill is open until the end of January, with the Government planning to introduce the legislation to Parliament in early 2020.

LEARNING TO SPOT A VICTIM OF SLAVERY

St Vincent’s Health Australia has embarked on a training program to help key staff identify and support vulnerable people who present to its hospitals who have been trafficked. Source: *ACRATH*.

SVHA has recruited its first team of eight advocates for change from some of its 32 sites around Australia, including St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne, Sydney, and in Toowoomba.

The training covers all forms of slavery including forced marriage, forced labour and supply chains. SVHA’s advocates volunteered to take on the anti-human trafficking work as part of their existing roles because they identified it as a major social justice issue. Sarah Iser, care coordinator at St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne, said the training was confronting and “I think a lot of us, when we look back with the knowledge we now have, recall someone who might have triggered some concerns.”

ENDING RIGHT TO BLOCK PRIVATE SCHOOLS HAILED AS WIN OVER ‘RED TAPE’

Residents will lose the right to object to the building of new private schools under planning laws designed to “fast-track” the development of the Catholic and independent sectors. Source: *The Age*.

Planning laws gazetted last week have removed the right of third parties to challenge non-government school constructions at VCAT.

In its submission to the government, Urbis Planning Consultants said independent and Catholic schools were bogged down by local government bureaucracy and that applications were taken to VCAT by residents over “relatively minor matters”.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne said. “The changes will make it quicker and easier to deliver the significant upgrades our non-government schools need. “We’re ensuring we have the right community and education infrastructure for our growing population.”

Applications will now be assessed by the planning minister, in line with the process for government schools, with decision-making taken out of the hands of councils.

The changes are intended to support an expected student boom of more than 110,000 extra Victorian students in the next three years. About 37 per cent of Victorian students attend a Catholic or independent school.

PAPUANS CALL ON CHRISTIANS TO RECOGNIZE THEIR PLIGHT

Papuans in Indonesia have called on Christians around the world, including Pope Francis, to “show humanitarian solidarity” in their Advent prayer intentions by remembering the human rights abuses occurring in Papua. Source: *ucanews.org*.

The call was made on Sunday as Papuans marked the shooting deaths of five Catholic students in Papua’s Paniai district five years ago. The crime remains unsolved despite Indonesian President Joko Widodo vowing to bring those responsible to justice.

Calling the case one of many rights abuses committed since Indonesia formally took over Papua in the 1960s, Markus Haluk, director of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, said they hoped Christians around the world would open eyes to their suffering.

“In this special moment of Advent, we ask that Christians, church leaders everywhere, the Holy Father Pope Francis, will stand and be present among us. People who are being persecuted, who are weak and powerless.”

GO TO CONFESSION, LET YOURSELF BE CONSOLED: POPE

Anyone who wants to experience the consolation and tenderness of God simply needs to go to confession, Pope Francis said at his morning Mass Source: *CNS*.

Paraphrasing the day’s reading from Isaiah 40, Francis said, “He is like a shepherd who pastures his sheep and gathers them in his arms, carrying the lambs on his bosom and sweetly leading them back to their mother ewes. That’s how the Lord consoles us.”

“The Lord always consoles us as long as we let ourselves be consoled,” he said.

Often, he said, people look at their own limits and sins and start thinking that there is no way God can forgive them. “It is then that the voice of the Lord is heard, saying, ‘I will console you. I am close to you,’ and he tenderly reaches us.”

“The powerful God who created the heavens and earth, the hero-God – if you want to say it that way – became our brother, who carried the cross and died for us, and is capable of caressing us and saying, ‘Don’t cry.’”

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

“Are you the one, or must we wait?” We are living after the death and resurrection and have the advantage over John. The reign of God has begun, the Spirit has been given, and we are now participants in God’s reign. However, like John we can miss the miracle of God’s presence. The signs are more delicate in our time, and in the busyness of our lives we may not even notice them. Advent invites us to be more perceptive, and to take time out to see the presence of God with us. The psalm today says, ‘Look! Your God is coming to save you.’ Look within your own life, your family, your workplace, your neighbourhood and recognise the sure signs of God’s presence.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Commentator: We draw closer to Christmas. As we light this candle, may our hope be renewed that Christ will be born again in our lives this Christmas time.

All: Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way in our world for the coming of your Son, renew us, so that we may welcome Jesus Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you came to rescue the poor and the lowly.

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

Christ Jesus, you give us patience in times of trial.

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

Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people.

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

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10*

The message of the first reading offers great hope, for the wilderness will not be barren; risking quiet time alone will be fruitful.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion’s God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING: *James 5: 7-10*

You also must be patient, do not lose heart, the Lord is coming.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL : *Matthew 11: 2-11*

The messianic times are upon us. John sent his followers to Jesus to ask if he is the coming and long-awaited Messiah. Perhaps John himself was having some doubts. Jesus, like a good teacher, does not give a simple Yes or No answer to John’s disciples. He points to his activity and implies, 'In the light of your understanding of the promises in Scripture concerning the messianic age, draw your own conclusions. If my activity is "messianic", then what is that saying about who I am?'



Shepherd Candle
To have **Joy** in
our **heart**,
One must know
how to
appreciate
Small things in
life.