

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B

10 December 2023

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God cross the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and every-

body to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION See Page 3



ST PATRICK'S PARISH

142 Princes Hwy, Pakenham

Parish Office: 5941 7315, Parish Website: www.stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Email: parishoffice@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Parish Office hours: Monday to Friday: 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

Parish Team

Fr. Janeesh Jose (Parish Priest)

stm.janeesh@gmail.com

Andrea Jayawardena (Parish Secretary)

parishoffice@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Katrina Venn (Pastoral Care)

katrina@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Herbie O'Flynn (Safeguarding Officer)

safetyofficer@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

Helen Staindl, (Principal)

St Clare's Primary School, 5940 6777

Meg Escalante (Principal)

St Patrick's Primary School, 5943 9000

Vincent J. Feeney, (Principal), **SFX College**, 9707 3111

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

St. Patrick's Catholic Parish acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of this land, who have walked upon and cared for it for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

CHURCH RENOVATION FUND-RAISING

Thank you for your kind support and generous donations. Fund Raising brochures are available in the church



As at 31Nov2023	Sponsored Already	Pledged	Money Paid
Pews	31	46,500.00	40,761.60
Stations of the cross	10	40,000.00	28,600.00
Bricks	54	13,750.00	14,152.40
Gold Sponsors	8	80,000.00	60,000.00
General Donation e.g, dinner, sausage sizzle, plants etc		90,000.50	90,000.50
Community Raffle		15,314.00	15,314.00
		195,149.70	248,828.50

Mass Times

Monday	9.30 am (Liturgy of the Word & Communion)
Tuesday	6.00 pm Funeral : Patricia Halion
Wednesday	9.30am
Thursday	9.30 am
Friday	9.30 am
Saturday	9.30 am (Mass followed by Reconciliation and Exposition) and 6.00 pm
Sunday	9.00 am & 10.30 & 5.00 pm

OUR OFFERINGS TO OUR PARISH

Stewardship envelope (1st Collection) \$1182.00 and cash: \$1570.30 Presbytery (2nd collection+Baptism) \$1232.15
If you would like to donate online:

St Patrick's Parish Pakenham – Donations

Bank: National Australia Bank, BSB: 083-879

Account Number: 75 577 0740

Flower Arrangement Roster

This weekend: 9th/10th December Carmel Logan
Next Weekend: 16th/17th December Dot Rowlands



Children's Liturgy

Every 2nd and 4th weekend

Kathy S & Volunteer 6.00pm Sat Dec 10th

Donna and Nicky 9.00am Sun Dec 11th

SPECIAL MINISTERS AND READERS ROSTER

9th/10th Dec	Special Ministers	Readers
6.00pm	Boruna V	Rishen P Kathlyn J
9.00am	Bernadette B Pat C Rose D	Sue C Mick O
10.30am	Volunteer, Ian M Angela S	Ivan C Jane E
5.00pm	Matilda A	Liz S Kimberley I
16th/17th Dec	Special Ministers	Readers
6.00pm	Vincent V	Kathy S Charlotte M
9.00am	Dot R Susira F Maria W	Primani F Chrismeen F
10.30am	Maceline P Christine P Wanguui G	Volunteer Christina F
5.00pm	Anne B	Therese R Matilda A

SAFEGUARDING: Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people and adults at risk.

St. Patrick's Parish Centre Phone: 5941 7315

Presbytery: 5941 3874

Parish News & Events

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Matthew Ward Joan Lewis, , Margaret Gudgeon, Christian Dela Cruz, Bruce Moss, and Evie Minnis

Recently Deceased: Patricia Halion, David Stapleton & Brigitte Sinclair

Death Anniversaries: Mr Oscar & Mr & Mrs James

"Eternal rest grant unto them , O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."

BAPTISM



Parents who would like to have their children baptised are required to attend baptism preparation. The next one is on Wednesday 7th February 2024 in the church at 6.00 pm. Please enrol through the parish website/ contact Andrea at 5941 7315 in the parish office.

PARISH MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

PADDY'S KITCHEN: Serves dinner and dessert as take away every Sunday between 4-4.45pm. Contact Tresa Andrews or email on stpatrickspaddys@gmail.com

MARTHA AND MARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Rosary at 10.00 am on Tuesdays followed by cuppa in the Hall.

LEGION OF MARY : Every Friday at 10.15 am. Contact Jilsa at 0450 070 262 or Winnie at 0422 179 999.

SERVANT COMMUNITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Every Thursdays at 7.00 pm— Praise, Worship and Healing Mass on first Thursdays of the month. For details: Jean-Claude at 0410 126 415.

D'VINE KIDS: CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM: Year 4-6 kids on 2nd Fridays of the month from 7—8.30 pm.

THE VINE YOUTH GROUP : Years 7-12 3rd Friday of the month 7-8.45 pm

HEARTS ON FIRE- YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Ages 18-40. For details contact the parish office on 5941 7315 or email heartsonfire@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

SERAPHS OF ST PAT'S MENS GROUP: Every Sunday at 6:00 p.m., we gather for music, fellowship, talks, and more. Additionally, our choir performs on the **first and third Sunday** of every month during the 5:00 p.m. mass. For further details, contact Dominic Thomas at 0425 742 254

ST PATRICK'S LUNCHEON GROUP: Meets for lunch every first Wednesday of the month. Contact Kathy at 0418 679 616.

ST PATRICK'S GIFT SHOP: Open before and after weekend Masses or by appointment through the parish office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Meets every 2nd Tuesday at 1.30pm in the Parish—Help Line is 1300 305 330.

SEWING GROUP: Meets every Thursday at 10.00am Contact Cheryl through Parish office.

MARY'S INTERCESSORY MINISTRY: Rosary and Chaplet of Mercy before the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday morning at 10am interceding for families, our church, priests and the world. Contact Rochelle 0401 017 752

CONTACT DETAILS OF VARIOUS SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Call 1800 Respect / 1800 737 732,

SAFE STEPS: 1800 015 188

NO TO VIOLENCE: MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE: 1 800 766 491 Mon-Fri: 8am-9pm; Sat-Sun: 9am-6pm

MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE: 1800 755 988

WAYS EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION: 9703 0044, **Lifeline** 13 11 14, **BEYOND BLUE** 1300 22 4636

KIDS HELPLINE: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au (Concerned adults can call for advice)



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

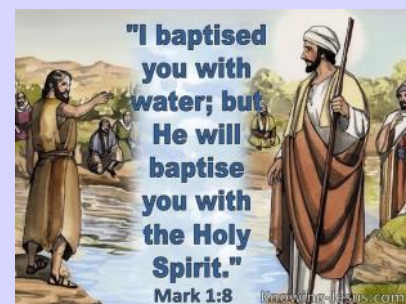
Two Gospels

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the *past*. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'



Parish News & Events

ADVENT RECONCILIATION: As preparation for Christmas, advent reconciliation is celebrated in our parish at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 13th December. There will be three priests available to hear confession. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS NIGHT: A heartfelt thank you for your generous contribution of time and effort during the Christmas Carols Night. Your willingness to dedicate yourselves to this event has not gone unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for your service. A special acknowledgment goes to Andrew Zachariah for his assistance in creating the poster, Neil Woods for generously providing Light and Sound equipment, Auxillia and Maria for adding festive Christmas décor to the stage setup, and Rose and Patrick for enhancing our tables with beautiful centerpieces. Dominic Thomas, your humorous MCing set the perfect tone for the night, complemented by Nelson Francis in conducting our auctions and Julia for helping to decorate the hampers and raffle prizes. Siji Dominic, we appreciate your guidance and support in managing all administrative tasks. Our sincere thanks extend to the catering teams, including Satya, Rochelle, Jenny Peters, Amala, Midhu, Elsama, Jilsa, Jean Claude, Warren, Christeen Fernando, Winne Wong, Kathy Kuljis, Cordelia, and our pastry and dessert chefs Jane Estrada, Philomeena, Menaka, Auxi, Maria, Janette, Abigail, and Abing. Your efforts ensured our parish community enjoyed a sumptuous meal with delightful desserts. A special mention to our serving team, including Satya, Chandima, Jean Claude, Shun, Giselle, Abing, Jean Claude, Marceline, and Kathy, who successfully served over 350 people on the night, overcoming our biggest challenge. We extend our gratitude to Donna Velten, Chiara Rosario, Ruth Fidow, Michelle, Rebecca & Jayden Simmons, Keith, and Andrew for their assistance in setting up the hall. Special thanks to Matt Fidow and family for helping move tables from the hall back to the church. Our joy is multiplied by the participation of our young church members Dion, River, Gisella, Antonia, Althea, Kathy, David Baxter, Elise, Shannon, who contributed to serving food, selling raffle tickets, and cleanup. A big shout-out to the Choir coordinators – Liz Merrigan & Leonie McGinley, Dominic Thomas, Andrew and Wendy Joseph, Shun, Auxillia and Maria, Matt, and Jojo for their hours of practice and dedication. Your incredible talent and commitment made the event memorable. Thanks also to Andrea and Katrina for their supportive roles and assistance with ticket sales. **A Big Thank you to Nisha and Min Gomez** who came up with the idea of Christmas Carols and co-ordinated this event successfully. In closing, we are reminded of the wisdom in Elizabeth Andrew's words: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." Your hearts have made this event a resounding success. We fundraised **\$8,230.37** by sale of entry tickets, food sale, raffle and auctions towards our Church Renovation Project.

PLEASE BRING BACK YOUR 'COIN BOXES' in the next two weeks if possible. We have raised **\$808.10** so far towards upgrading the security system in the parish.

DID YOU SEE THE CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATED WITH TAGS? The members of St Vincent de Paul ask you to take one or more tags from the tree, buy the item(s) named on the tag, and please bring the item UNWRAPPED, to Mass NEXT WEEKEND. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please put the money in a plain envelope, mark the envelope "Donation for St Vincent de Paul" and put the envelope on a collection plate during Mass. Members will be packing and distributing hampers for the poor shortly.



St Patrick's Church, Pakenham
Christmas Mass Times 2023

24th December
9.00 am Sunday Mass (Advent)
10.30 am Sunday Mass (Advent)

Christmas Eve (Sunday)
5.20 pm Carols & 6.00 pm Mass
8.20 pm Carols & 9.00 pm Mass
11.20 pm Carols & 12.00 (Midnight) Mass

Christmas Day: (Monday)
25th December 9.00 am Mass

New Year 2024
Sunday 31st December 2023
9.00 am, 10.30 am and 5.00 pm
Monday 1st January 2024: 9.00 am

We wish you a Holy and Blessed Christmas!

THE VINE: St Patrick's Parish Youth Group for secondary students Years 7-12 will meet on Friday the 15 December 2023 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at the school stadium. Refer notice board for more information.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE FOR MIDNIGHT MASS

will be conducted 7:30 to 9 pm in the church on Wednesday, December 20th. All are welcome, including newcomers. Practice will also include songs for the Christmas Carols on December 1st. For further details, see Liz or Leonie after the Mass.

2023 ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE – ADVICE FOR COLLECTION:

During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection(s) for the people of Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars was raised to support people in the war-torn nation through the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. **There will be a leaving collection after the weekend Masses next week.**

