

# STS PETER & PAUL'S

## CATHOLIC PARISH

### SOUTH MELBOURNE



16 December, 2018

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the Messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The Messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see Luke 3:3; 5:32; 24:47).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a two-fold "turning"—away from sin (see Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30) and toward God (see Sirach 17:20–21; Hosea 6:1).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life-change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see Luke 3:8). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, ask from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring, not from our fear of coming wrath (see Luke 3:7–9), but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice!...The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare Luke 1:28–31). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Saviour."

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

Scott Hahn

#### MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil).

Mon - Fri: 8am

Saturday: 10am

Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

#### PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Dean Mathieson OFM Cap

PHONE: 0422 852 273

EMAIL: [stspeterandpauls@gmail.com](mailto:stspeterandpauls@gmail.com)

FB: @stspeterandpauls

WEBSITE: [stspeterandpauls.com](http://stspeterandpauls.com)

Emerald Hill Mission: 96960644

Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday,  
9:30am - 3pm

**CHRISTMAS**  
AT  
**STS PETER & PAUL'S**

**MASSTIMES**  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
7PM  
(6:30PM CAROLS)

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY  
10AM

**THE FRIARS'**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**MARKET**  
SAT 22 DEC  
9AM-2PM

*Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:*

Sr. Annunciata Fcj, Pauline O'Hara, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr. Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressia, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxas, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Eunice Costa, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Watkins, Bonnie Breen, Maurita Carlisle, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Mary Quirke, Ilse Miranda, Neil Baker, Helen Keighery, Alison Fraser

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# CHRISTMAS AT STS PETER & PAUL'S



**MASS TIMES**  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
7PM  
(6:30PM CAROLS)

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY  
10AM

**THE FRIARS'**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**MARKET**  
SAT 22 DEC  
9AM-2PM

The celebration of Advent is possible  
only to those who are troubled in soul,  
who know themselves to be poor and  
imperfect, and who look forward to  
something greater to come.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS  
CHRISTMAS CARDS  
2019 COLUMBAN CALENDARS  
2019 DAILY MISSALS**

We have a number of things for sale after Mass including a wonderful Advent reflection book titled 'Saviour' which is a pocket-size book containing short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent through to the Baptism of the Lord (13 January 2019)

**CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS**

There are also Christmas puddings for sale after Mass



THE *frivars'* MARKET  
Christmas Edition  
SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER, 9AM-2PM

**WHAT IS 'GAUDETE SUNDAY'?**

"Rejoice: the Lord is near." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasises the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom.

The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.