

STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

15th Dec 2019



Third Sunday of Advent

Here is Your God

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing “the works of the Messiah,” foretold in today’s First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvellous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today’s Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Saviour.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: “Here is your God.”

Scott Hahn

COMING UP

Gifts of Christmas
Fri 20th Dec, 7pm

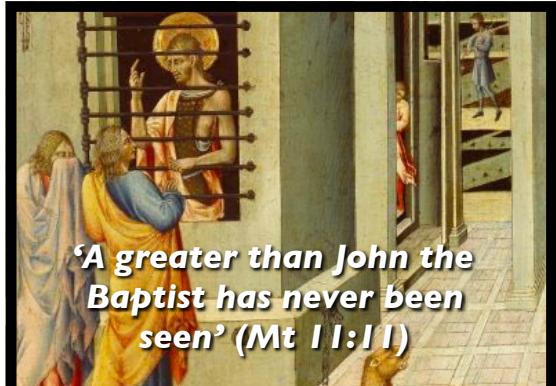
Carols
Tue 24th Dec,
7:30pm

Christmas Vigil
Tue 24th Dec,
8pm

Christmas Day
Wed 25th Dec,
10am

Holy Innocents Mass
Sat 28th Dec,
12pm

MASS TIMES
Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Mon - Thurs: 8am, Friday: 10am, Saturday: 10am
Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:
Fr John Spiteri OFM Cap
PHONE: 9690 5895 **EMAIL:** stspeterandpauls@gmail.com
FB: @stspeterandpauls **WEBSITE:** stspeterandpauls.com
Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412
Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am - 3pm



GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

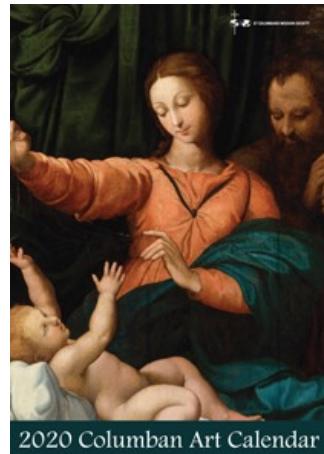
Every Friday 7 to 9pm. From 29th of November to 20th of December. In the hall. Will be a great way to learn about Advent and Christmas, and to invite others to come and explore the faith.

Register at: <https://www.stspeterandpauls.com/gifts>



CALENDARS AND CARDS FOR SALE

There are 2020 Columbian calendars and some Christmas cards for sale at the back of the church. \$10 for the calendars and \$5 for a packet of 10 Christmas cards.



2020 Columban Art Calendar

Catholic Theological College

2020 New Study Options Now Available!

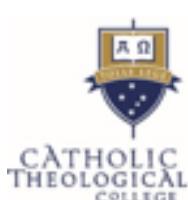
The Parish and Pastoral Ministry in a New Environment

Fr Brendan Reed, author of *Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes*, will teach how to navigate through the changed social and ecclesial environment. Will be beneficial for anyone involved in parish life, parish councils, parish teams, and parish ministry.

Church History

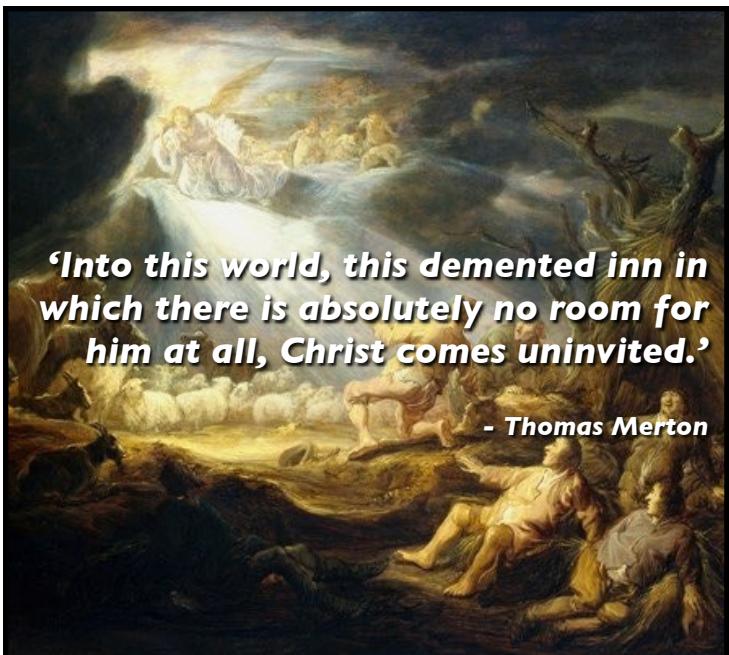
Fr Max Vodola will teach about the Church's story and the her journey of faith across the centuries. Units will include The Spirit of Trent, the Mystery of Vatican II, and Catholicism in Australia.

Contact the Academic Records Office for all study options and further information: +61 3 9412 3309 or AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au



'Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited.'

- Thomas Merton



MASS FOR HOLY INNOCENTS

Sat 28th of December, 12 noon

Mass will be followed by morning tea, then a rosary at the Memorial for Lost Infants (in the front garden in front of the presbytery), and then a BBQ in the Open House. Fr John will be celebrating the Mass.



CATECHISM CORNER

"The Name of the Lord is Holy" (n. 2143)

Among all the words of Revelation, there is one which is unique: the revealed name of God. God confides his name to those who believe in him; he reveals himself to them in his personal mystery. The gift of a name belongs to the order of trust and intimacy. "The Lord's name is holy." For this reason man must not abuse it. He must keep it in mind in silent, loving adoration. He will not introduce it into his own speech except to bless, praise, and glorify it.

CHRISTMAS TIMES

Here are the Christmas times for the parish:

Carols: 24th Dec at 7:30pm.

Christmas vigil: 24th Dec at 8pm.

Christmas day: 25th Dec at 10am.

OVERSEAS MISSIONS APPEAL

Melbourne Overseas Missions continues to assist the disadvantage and marginalised in Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Botswana, Peru, and Jerusalem. If you'd like to donate, you can put your donation in the envelops that will be provided and put it in the collection **next weekend (21/22 Dec)**. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.



WANTED: NEW PARISH SECRETARY

The parish office is looking for a new parish secretary to start work from mid-January 2020. Flexible 16 hour per week. Please contact the parish office on stspeterandpauls@gmail.com for full job description or to send in your resume/expression of interest.

Applications close Monday 23rd December.



ADVENT CONCERT 2019

MAGNIFICAT

Sunday 22nd December, 3pm
St Patrick's Church, Mentone

St Patrick's Choir
Director and Organ Myfanwy McIndoe
French Horn and Guest Conductor Evgeny Chebykin

Featuring music of the Advent season, FREE ADMISSION

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Peter Canisius

21st of December

Peter Canisius was a renowned Dutch Jesuit priest. He became known for his strong support of the Catholic faith during the Protestant Reformation in Germany, Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. He is considered a true apostle to Germany, second only to St Boniface. With stupendous energy he preached and taught in parishes, reformed and founded universities, wrote many books including popular catechisms, restored lapsed Catholics, converted Protestants, preached retreats, and found time to care for the sick. In his last thirty years, he travelled more than 32 000 kms, either on foot or horseback. Canisius taught that, while there are many roads leading to Christ, the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the best.



Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill: Sr Annuciata, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr Joyce Stewart, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxa, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Atkins, Bonnie Breen, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Alison Fraser, Steven Wallace, Elaine Wallace, Richard, Miles Buneski, Lachlan Fahy, Colin Crawford.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

1st Reading – Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

We hear the rich imagery of the prophet Isaiah when he proclaims the future coming of God. The blessings showered on God's people were fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus.



Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come and save us.

It is He who keeps the faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is He who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.

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 the orphan.

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.

Lord, come and save us.

2nd reading – James 5:7-10

We hear a passage from the rare letter of St. James which is perfect for the Southern hemisphere summer. Many a farmer has had to be patient in waiting for the rains which produce the harvest. The attitude and practice of patience is our call and responsibility until the Lord comes in glory.

Alleluia, Alleluia, The spirit of the Lord is upon me; He sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11

We hear Matthew's description of the impact of the ministry of John the Baptiser. Jesus responds to John's Messengers with reference to the Biblical images that foretold when the time of the Messiah would come. We now share that time of God's grace.

Next week's readings: 1st reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
2nd reading: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

Lord, we pray for Pope Francis, his bishops, priests and religious, that as shepherds and spiritual leaders in the Church they may radiate the Christian joy that they are called to.

Lord, we pray that our preparations for Christmas be inspired by the true spirit of Advent and acknowledge that Jesus came among us and is still with us until He comes in glory in the final judgement.

Lord, we pray that this Advent time may be an occasion for us to be reconciled with God, and so come home for Christmas.

Lord, we pray that by living our lives to the word of Christ the world will bury hatred and prejudice.

Lord, we remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently Joyce Lugg and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time Shirley Sinclair, Fred Zanotto, Pat Cody, Angela Damato, Paul Almonte, Barbara Connell, Pat Connell, Anne Donohoe, Kate Duffy.

Collections: Dec 7/8, 2019

1st Collection: \$801

2nd Collection: \$786

Online per week (Nov): \$350

1st Collection goes to the Friars, and the 2nd collection goes to the running costs of the Parish.

EFT Donations:

Account Name: Parish SS Peter & Paul

BSB: 083 155

Account number: 515577466

E.M.E

	READERS	
Sat 14	Andy	
Sun 15	Eileen & Merlyn	Rick & Doris
Sat 21	Geraldine	
Sun 22	Rick & Olwen	Doris & Mario

HOSPITALITY

Donovan Family

Bill & Carol

FLOWERS

Geraldine & Sue

Doris