



# STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

8th Dec 2019

## Second Sunday of Advent

### Kingdom Come

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David—a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel—but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God's oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise" (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1-2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5)—children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

Scott Hahn

### COMING UP

#### Open House party setup

Thur 12th Dec, 6pm

#### Open House party

Fri 13th Dec, 11am

#### Bible Study

Fri 13th Dec, 3:30pm

#### Gifts of Christmas

Fri 13th Dec, 7pm

#### Christmas working bee

Sat 14th Dec, 7:30pm

#### 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:

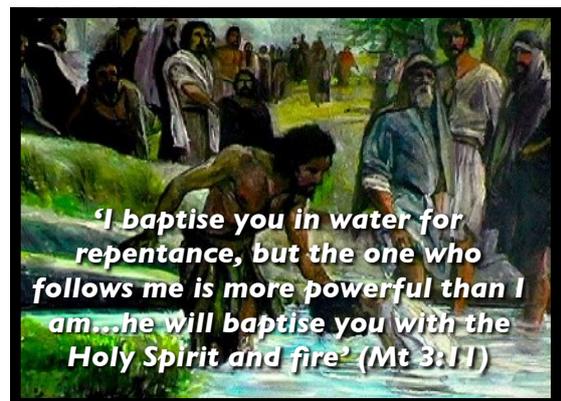
Fr John Spiteri OFM Cap

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



*'I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am...he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire' (Mt 3:11)*

## 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>

## GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all who have been attending Gifts of Christmas. They have been beautiful evenings of community, food and laughter, where parishioners and non-Church attenders of all ages have been coming together in preparation for Christmas. Everyone is invited to attend the remaining two evenings where we will be hearing about Joy (Fri 13 December) and Peace (Fri 20 December). Gifts of Christmas is a gift to be shared, so please invite someone who you think will enjoy these enriching evenings. We're looking forward to



## OPEN HOUSE PARTY SETUP

Calling for volunteers to help prepare the parish hall for the Open House Christmas celebration (Friday 13th Dec at 11am). Helpers are needed on **Thursday 12th of December from 6pm onwards**. With enough workers, it will all be done by 7pm.

If you'd like more information, please call Margaret on 0421 067 068.

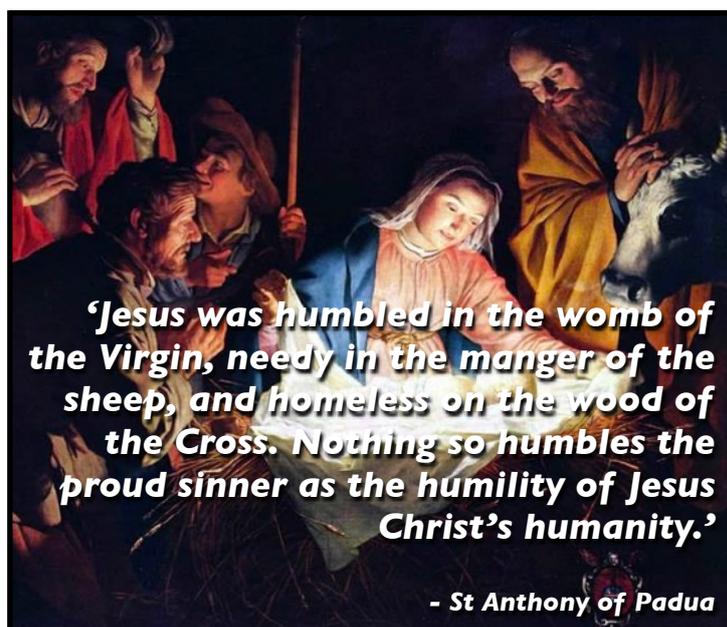
## MASS FOR HOLY INNOCENTS

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.

## THANK YOU FROM THE CRAFT GROUP

Many thanks to those people who supported our craft stall last Sunday. We raised \$1,600, which has been given to Fr John towards the work of the Parish — The Craft group.



## CALENDARS AND CARDS FOR SALE

There will be Christmas cards and 2020 Columbian calendars for sale after next week's Sunday 10am Mass.

## ACYF INTENTIONS

Please pray for all the young people attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth this weekend (about 5000 in total). Especially for vocations and the inflaming of hearts for the Gospel.

## CATECHISM CORNER

**"Mary's divine motherhood" (n. 495)**

Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus", Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord". In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God" (Theotokos).

## SAT 14TH DEC MASS TIME CHANGE

Please note that next Saturday morning's Mass (14th of December) will be moved to **11am** for the working bee. One time only. Will resume usual 10am time immediately after.

## CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE

Saturday 14th December, 7:30 to 11am

Calling for volunteers for our Christmas working bee. Depending on the number of volunteers we will attempt to tackle the following tasks:

- Clean and dust pews
- Realign the pews
- Vacuum carpets
- Polish brass candlesticks etc
- Clean candle stand
- Change Light bulbs
- Wipe down all skirting boards
- Dust windows and cobwebs
- Sweep all floors
- Set up the Nativity Scene/Christmas tree
- Clean out back store room/flower room
- Clean and dust all side alters
- Clean kitchen, fridge and microwave
- Clean up leaves and rubbish outside
- Garden Maintenance

Please let me know if you have any particular skills or access to tools or equipment that might assist. In addition please bring along any cleaning equipment, gloves, buckets, dusters, etc., that you will need.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing many of you on the day — Andrew (0425 866 739)

**Important: The 10am Mass will be at 11am for that Saturday only.**

## 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](mailto:stspeterandpauls@gmail.com) for full job description or to send in your resume/expression of interest.

Applications close Monday 23rd December.

## GREAT WEEKEND

Fr Dean's farewell went exceedingly well last weekend: The food was delicious and the atmosphere vibrated. Fr John acknowledged Fr Dean's great contributions to this parish; and Fr Dean shared how much this place has meant to him over the years.

Many thanks to the volunteers who provided the food, helped set up, and cleaned up. Thank you also to the Craft group who sold amazing plants and crafts to help support the parish. They made the hall extra festive!



## FEAST OF THE WEEK

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
8th of December (moved to Mon 9th this year)

The Immaculate Conception is the conception of Mary free from original sin by virtue of the merits of her son, Jesus. This grace given to her is an act of God's perfect and gratuitous mercy. She did not earn or merit it; rather, God in His goodness chose to create her without original sin so as to have a suitable instrument by which the Son could come into the world. Mary, for her part, embraced this gift and chose to remain sinless throughout her life by a continual act of her free will. It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. But through the wrestling of many minds throughout the ages, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it was solemnly taught in 1854 by Pope Pius IX.

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill: Sr Annunciata, 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 Buntiski, Lachlan Fahy, Colin Crawford.

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

### Isaiah 11:1-10

Prophet Isaiah announces the coming of the Messiah who is the righteous King.

### Responsorial Psalm

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



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.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great river to earth's bounds.

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.

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name.

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

### 2nd Reading – Roman 15:4-9

Paul exhorts the Christians of Rome to live in peace and harmony so that they may glorify God with one voice.

### Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

### Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist invites his listeners to repentance and conversion).

**Next week's readings:** 1st reading: Zep 3:14-18  
 2nd reading: Phil 4:4-7  
 Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

Lord, we pray for Pope Francis, his Bishops, clergy and religious. May the example of John the Baptist: 'I must decrease that Christ may increase', motivate the service of all priests.

Lord, we pray for all who through Baptism become the Body of Christ. In God's spirit, may we fill in the gaps in our lives to prepare the way of the Lord.

Lord, we pray in support of our parishes in the ministry of Reconciliation. May the rigour of John the Baptist help many to open their hearts in Reconciliation to prepare them to come home to the church in this special Season.

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 and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Shirley Sinclair, Tommy Lahiff, Ted & Ricky McCormack, Margaret Dunne, Joan Fallon, Tim Kennelly, Br Stephen Thompson, Warren Moseley, Jack & Melvie Leahy.

### Collections: Nov 30/Dec 1, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1333

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$790

Online per week (Sept-Oct): \$337

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

	READERS	E.M.E	HOSPITALITY	FLOWERS
Sat 07	Angela			Ann & Priska
Sun 08	Carmel & Randy	Carmel & Rick	Denis & Olwen	
Sat 14	Andy			Geraldine & Sue
Sun 15	Eileen & Ann T	Rick & Doris	Donovan Family	