

St Therese's Parish Essendon

11 & 12 December 2021
Third Sunday of Advent Year C



First Reading Zep 3:14-18 A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Gospel Lk 3:10-18 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.



We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

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ST THERESE'S VOLUNTEERS FUNCTION CANCELLED After consideration and with much regret, we have decided to cancel this year's volunteer's Christmas function. We were hopeful that we could hold our gathering before Christmas but have decided that the risks outweigh the rewards. The health and safety of our parishioners remains our highest priority. We look forward to gathering some time in 2022 as a parish community when the risks to our most vulnerable members have diminished.

INTERCESSIONS

In these times of joyful expectation let us bring our needs before the God of hope and salvation.

For the Holy people of God, may we remain faithful to our baptismal calling to prepare the way for the Lord. Lord, hear us

For young people, may they respond to the challenges of the Gospel enthusiastically and build a new world. Lord, hear us

We pray for Charlotte, Owen and Mateo who are presented this weekend for the sacrament of Baptism. That they lead a life of faith and love for all. Lord, hear us

For the teachers, students and parents from parish school who finish up the school year on Wednesday. May they enjoy a well-earned break and recharge their batteries in preparation for the next year ahead. Lord, hear us

For this community, that in this time of Advent we will open our hearts to those around us in a spirit of joy and generosity. Lord, hear us

We pray for those who are ill, especially Cas Lukauskas and Bryan Guiney

For our own special needs. Lord, hear us

For those who have died recently: Frank Camiller, Kathleen Moloney, Patrice Gbikpi, Patricia Meli

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Therese Dobbie, Ray Farrelly, Michael Hegarty, Kevin Hogan, Lord, hear us

Lord God, the coming of your Son is near. Hear our prayers, and guide us with patience and renewed faith as we wait in joyful hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

VALE FRANK CAMILLER 09.01.1939 ~ 03.12.2021 This weekend we pray for and give thanks for the life of Frank Camiller who passed away late last week. Frank and his wife Marion are long-time parishioners of St Therese's and have only recently retired from years of service as lectors at 6:00pm Mass. Frank passed peacefully at the Royal Melbourne Hospital with Marion by his side. Frank is remembered as the dearly loved husband of Marion, loving father and father-in-law of Karyn & Tom, Shani & Craig, Amanda and Christine and beloved grandad of Nathan, Alex, Jeremy, Oscar, Agatha, Dion, Ace and Anabelle. A Requiem Mass for Frank will be held here at St Therese's on Monday 20 December at 11:00am.



SVDP 'GIFT CARD' GIVING TREE please donate to SVDP this Christmas. This year we're asking parishioners to donate gift cards for purchase of food and other necessities. Some examples are Coles Xpress fuel cards (value \$20-\$30) or Coles/Woolworths food cards of any value. These cards will be included in hampers for Companions (those people who are assisted by SVDP). You can drop gift cards the collection plates at Mass, or in the parish office drop box. You can also donate cash in a clearly marked envelope. Donations are needed by Monday 13 December. Please don't leave gifts or gift cards under the tree and please don't donate gift cards that can be used to purchase tobacco or alcohol

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available to collect from our entry tables. The cards include a message from Fr John and the time and date of all our Christmas services. Please feel free to take cards for your friends and family.

PARISH CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE On Saturday 18 December we'll hold our annual working bee for cleaning up before our Christmas celebrations. It's a wonderful opportunity to get our church and surrounds looking their best for the large crowds at our Christmas Eve Masses. If you are ready, willing and able to help out please come along on Saturday morning with your own cleaning or gardening equipment. There will be jobs to do both inside and out and any time you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

ST THERESE'S SCHOOL END OF YEAR PARALITURGY Our end of year school Mass will no longer be held in church but will instead be held in the school grounds. This will be a school-only Para liturgy and as it is being held during school hours it will not open to the public



100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS Happy birthday to Pixie McNamee who celebrated her 100th birthday on Friday 10 December. Pixie is a long-time parishioner here at St Therese's, she was a teacher at St Columba's and is now resident at Arcadia. .



REOPENING AT ST THERESE'S: CHECKING IN

All fully vaccinated attendees are required to check in using the Service Victoria QR code in our church.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

All parish office staff are required to be fully vaccinated

All volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated in order to attend Masses and continue their ministry.

All Mass attendees over the age of 12 years and 2 months will be required to show proof of double-dose vaccination so please bring along your printed or digital certificate.

If you cannot prove your vaccination status, you will not be allowed to attend Mass.

Please bring your proof of vaccination EACH time you attend Mass

FULLY VACCINATED MEANS SOMEONE WHO:

- has received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- has a valid medical exemption, or
- is under the age of 12 and two months.

MASSES FOR PERSONS OF UNKNOWN VACCINATION STATUS: Some local parishes and St Patrick's Cathedral are holding regular Masses for persons of unknown vaccination status.



COVID MARSHALS NEEDED We must have COVID MARSHALS AT ALL MASSES. We have a small group of regular volunteers but really need to boost numbers to support the roster.

LECTORS NEEDED We have had a few of our faithful lectors retire from the roster recently and are now seeking help to support those who read at our weekly Masses. Experience is ideal but not necessary, we can provide mentoring.

DATA PROJECTIONISTS NEEDED an important role in helping our attendees follow Mass and join in responses. Training provided.

If you are willing and able to assist in any of these roles please contact the parish office.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS All volunteers are required to have a current Working with Children Check which we can help with if necessary. Working With Children checks can be applied for online at:

<https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/work-and-volunteering/working-with-children-check> All volunteers must be fully vaccinated.

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMME ENVELOPES For parishioners who use envelopes for their PSP contributions, your new envelopes are on the tables near the main doors for you to collect. Envelopes are sorted in STREET NAME ORDER.

If you would like to continue your payments but are not currently attending Mass in person, you can deposit your PSP donations in the drop box beside the parish office or directly to the parish accounts. Note there are separate accounts for church and for clergy.

Contributions to the church account:

Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, Account number: 67640 1701

Contributions towards supporting the clergy:

Account Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, A/C number: 67616 4988

Deposits should be referenced with your **FIRST INITIAL and SURNAME** so that we know that the money is a PSP payment attributed to you.



clergy, visiting/supply priests, retired/sick and priests in poorer or newer parishes are available at the entry tables. Thank you for your ongoing support

ON SALE NOW – ST VINCENT DE PAUL: Selling Christmas Cards & Columban Calendars at the back of the Church after each weekend Mass. **Cards:** pack of 8 for \$5.00, **Calendars** \$9.00 each.

FOR SALE ON ENTRY TABLES: The Far East \$1.50

PARISH DATES

Tuesday 14 December	Requiem Mass for Patricia Meli	10.00am
Wednesday 15 December	End of Term 4	3:30pm
Thursday 16 December	Christmas Mass at Arcadia	11:00am
Saturday 18 December	Pre-Christmas working bee	9:00am
Monday 20 December	Requiem Mass for Frank Camiller	11:00am
Tuesday 21 December	Communal Reconciliation Mass	7:00pm
Thursday 23 December	Parish office closes for Christmas break	3:00pm
Friday 24 December	Christmas Eve Mass Carols followed by Mass Carols followed by Mass Carols followed by Mass	10:00am 5:30pm then 6:00pm 8:00pm then 8:30pm 10:30pm then 11:00pm
Saturday 25 December	Christmas Day Mass	10:00am
Sunday 26 December	Boxing Day Mass	10:30am
Monday 10 January 2022	Parish office re-opens for limited hours	
Sunday 23 January	Parish Baptisms	12:00pm
Monday 24 January 2022	Parish office resumes regular hours	9:00am

Please note: Christmas Masses this year will not require booking and there will be no limit on the number of attendees. All attendees must however adhere to all COVID safety protocols and must be fully vaccinated. It is strongly recommended that Mass attendees wear face masks when attending crowded Masses.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: John Hannon john.hannon@cam.org.au
Baptism – Pastoral Outreach: Leanne Torr leanne.torr@cam.org.au
Business Manager: Kathy Gilmour kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au
Function Manager: Jac Radcliffe jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au
Bookkeeper: Irene Fritsche irene.fritsche@cam.org.au
Parish Leadership Team: essendon.plt@cam.org.au
Child Safety Officer: Olivia Metcalf essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au
Office opening hours - Monday to Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
Office Telephone: 9401 6330 – after hours Fr John: 0490 956 610
Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.stthereses.org.au
School email: info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au
St Vincent de Paul helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm

Mass Online:

Follow this [link here](#)

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday to Friday 10:00am (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 6:00pm (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

Sunday 9:00am (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

Sunday 10:30am (fully-vaccinated attendees only)

St Therese's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our church stands and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.