



PARISH OFFICE: 44 Margaret Street, Launceston 7250 **PHONE:** 6331 4377
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OFFICE HOURS: 10.00AM - 3.00PM on MONDAY - FRIDAY; CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS
PARISH TEAM: Fr Ben Brooks, Fr Chathura Silva, Fr Jessie Banez
Carolyn Gutteridge—**Parish Secretary**
Rosie Caelli—**Sacramental Co-ordinator**
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THIRD SUNDAY ADVENT (YEAR A) - 11 DECEMBER 2022

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the waste land rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is 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 orphan. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

ADVENT WREATH RESPONSORY

Priest: May the Lord's love shine in our hearts.

All: *And may His peace be with us all.*

Priest: The Lord is our faith and our life.

All: *Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

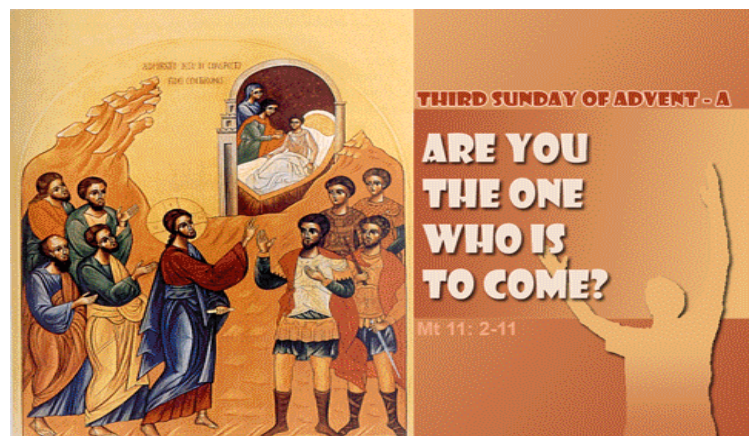
Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Dear Parish family,

On the third Sunday of Advent, we light the rose-coloured candle of the advent wreath. The colour rose, which is similar to the other violet-coloured candles, yet distinct, is used because it points to the increasing sense of joy that is building in this time of anticipation for the coming of the Messiah.

John the Baptist, who's mission was to prepare people's hearts and minds for the Messiah, is found in prison in this week's gospel – a place where joy is not usually found. But as he hears the stories of Jesus' activities and teachings, he is filled with joyful anticipation as he asks his disciples to find out if indeed he is the one who they had been waiting for.

Many people find themselves in a similar position to John – whether that be in prison, or in poverty, homelessness, in the midst of a relationship breakdown, sickness or bereavement. To hear of the coming of Christ has the potential to transform that sense of sorrow and imprisonment into joy and freedom.

If you are finding yourself overwhelmed at this time by the various pressures of life, do as Jesus told John's disciples to do, i.e., look around at our world and see the signs around us. We may see many bleak realities, but amongst this, there are signs that point to the growth of God's kingdom on earth - many who have been sick are made well, those who came as strangers or refugees are being welcomed into the community, young people are taking on responsibility for care of others and the planet, and families welcome the gift of new life as babies are born!

Let's take some time this week to reflect on the good things in our lives and our world and give thanks for these gifts. May they help us to enter the joy of the season to come as we welcome the birth of Christ into our world and in the depth of our hearts.

Have a blessed week! *Fr Ben Brooks*



From the Parish Pastoral Council

1. *A Palm Sunday Pilgrimage, as detailed in the Bulletin, was discussed. Further details regarding the route will be announced closer to the date.*
2. *New Parish Pastoral Council nominees are in a process of discernment. New members will be welcomed at the first meeting of the Council in February, 2023.*
3. *A Parish Retreat is being considered, to take place during Lent 2023.*
4. *Altar server training for those interested will be organised by Fr Jesse in 2023.*

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

(2nd Rite)

Thursday 22nd December

7.30pm

St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay



A VOCATION VIEW

"As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James 5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God.

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Sr Teresa OCD, Fr Martin Aye Ngwe, Fr Terry Yard, Kath Aldred, Teresa McMahon, Kim Izard, Danielle Evans, Lalla Smethurst, Sally Griffin (Smethurst), Pauline Heazlewood, Patsy Heath, Alex Thrower, Marie Cousins, Alida Moolenschot, Archivaldo Pechon, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Qian Zhang-Allchin, Carole Cleary, Bev Callahan, Nanette Gunton, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Mary Morgan, Mary Carter, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Tony Long, Kristel Latham, Joan Keefe, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Brian Beardwood, Denise Austin, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, Max Jamieson, Jan McClean, John Bennett, and Peter Marshall.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Fr Bill Egan, Catherine Baker, Wayne Brooks, Geoff Ranson, Natasha Cruz-Gutteridge, Janet Moore, Paul Smart Brian Hollingsworth, Paul Coulson, Jessie McCoy, Giulio Pozzebon, Bessie Slatter, Brian Morrison, Molly Brooks, David Hardinge, Peggy Barrett, Barbara Bedwell, Isabelle Jacobson, Umberto Masciarelli, the children who died in the Hillcrest Primary School tragedy 2021, we remember all victims of the COVID-19 virus and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY: As the COVID virus continues to affect our lives, we pray in a special way for all those involved in frontline services. We pray for the gift of healing and peace for all who contract the virus,

Our mission is to love and serve our God, each other and the wider community

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place for one hour every Friday after the 12noon Mass at the Church of the Apostles. Please come and spend time with the Lord and pray for our parish, our diocese, our nation and our world.

DINING WITH FRIENDS The next gathering will be at **6pm, Tuesday 7th February 2023** in the Pastoral Centre. Please book with St Vincent de Paul Society on 6326 5551

COLUMBAN CALENDARS are available from the Parish Office or the church at the cost of \$9 each.

ROSARY: is recited each and every Monday at 7:30pm in the comfort of your own home. We pray our Blessed Mother will watch over us all at this time of uncertainty and sadness. Enquiries: Jan (0409 175 940) or Adrian & Liz (0407 074 693)

THE CARMEL SHOP: 7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston is open on Wednesdays between 11.00am - 4.00pm



SAVE THE DATE! PARISH LENTEN PILGRIMAGE - Saturday 1st April 2023 (Palm Sunday weekend)

Departing at 3pm from St Finn Barr's Church car park, arriving at Sacred Heart Church, Newstead around 5.15pm in time for the 6pm Vigil Mass. Further details will follow in due course.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 6.00pm Vigil | Sacred Heart, Newstead |
| Sunday | 7.30am | Carmel |
| 9.00am | St Finn Barr's, Invermay | |
| 9.00am | St Patrick's Chapel | |
| 10.30am | Apostles | |
| 6.30pm | Apostles (Oct—March) | |

WEEKDAY MASSES - 12th—17th December

| | | |
|-----------|--------|------------|
| Monday: | 7.30am | Carmel |
| Tuesday: | 7.30am | Carmel |
| | 12noon | Newstead - |
| Wednesday | 7.30am | Carmel |
| | 5.30pm | Apostles |
| Thursday: | 7.30am | Carmel |
| | 12noon | Invermay |
| Friday: | 7.30am | Carmel |
| | 12noon | Apostles |
| Saturday: | 9.00am | Carmel |

RECONCILIATION

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| Saturday: | 10.00am - 11.00am | Apostles |
| | 5.15pm - 5.45pm | Newstead |

MASS LIVE-STREAMED

Each and every Sunday at 9am



On Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston
if you don't have a Facebook account go to:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/)

[CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/)

Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning
on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.



CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS

Please consider giving a Global Gift to friends and relatives this Christmas and share the true spirit of Christmas - Your gift card could be the Gift of Education, Health or Empowerment and will bring hope and joy to the most vulnerable people in the world. For more details go to: www.globalgifts.org.au or phone: 1800 024 413

Can you please help?

Fruit pickers from Tonga and East Timor have recently arrived to work at the Hillwood Berry Farm and the parish is taking up a clothes collection to help them adapt to our cooler weather. The collection will run until Monday 19th December and any help with jumpers, track pants, thermal underwear, beanies, scarves, socks would be appreciated. Sizes Medium—large for both female and males. Donations can be left at the Parish Office during work hours.

Thanks in anticipation

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Please support the annual Christmas appeal and give the gift of Hope this Christmas

Please take a Christmas Appeal Envelope and return to the Parish Office with your donation or directly to St Vincent de Paul Society.



The Catholic Parish of Launceston embraces and whole-heartedly supports the Archdiocese of Hobart Safe Communities Policy and Framework.

Further information is available at: <https://hobart.catholic.org.au/safe-communities>

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



*My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.*



Christmas Eve Masses

Nativity Play

6.00pm: Sacred Heart Church,
Newstead

6.30pm: Church of the Apostles

*Primary aged Children are warmly invited to be part of
this year's Nativity Plays.*

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES:

Nativity Rehearsal: Wednesday 14th December @3
15pm

Enquiries: Kellie Cox on 0400 128 200

SACRED HEART CHURCH::

Nativity Rehearsal: 5pm Monday 12th December
5pm Wednesday 14th December
5pm Saturday, 24th December

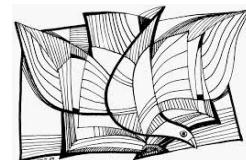
Email: Belinda Taylor at: Belinda.taylor@catholic.tas.edu.au

GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Monday 12th: | Matthew 21:23-27 |
| Tuesday 13th: | Matthew 21:28-32 |
| Wednesday 14th: | Luke 7:19-23 |
| Thursday 15th: | Luke 7:24-30 |
| Friday 16th: | John 5:33-36 |
| Saturday 17th: | Matthew 1:1-17 |

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isiah 7:10-14
Psalm 23:1-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



Ponder and pray the living Word of God

Majellan Media – Because Family Matters Most

As we count down the days to Christmas and amid the busyness of the season, a great way to keep the focus on Jesus is to use a time-honoured tradition—the advent calendar. Our online **Advent calendar** is designed to help participate more actively in the season of Advent as we await the joyful celebration of Christmas.

The calendar has a short reflection, and suggestion of an action to help pray each day and remember that in our preparation for Christmas, we are awaiting the birth of Jesus our Redeemer.

www.majellan.media

Children's Corner

Advent
Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath. The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Color in the Advent Wreath.



Celebrating Christmas 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday 24th December

| | |
|----------|--|
| 6.00pm | Sacred Heart Church, Newstead Family Mass |
| 6.30pm | Church of the Apostles, Launceston Family Mass |
| 9.00pm | Church of the Apostles |
| Midnight | Church of the Apostles (Carols from 11.00pm) |
| Midnight | Carmelite Monastery |

CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday, 25th December

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 8.30am | Carmelite Monastery |
| 9.00am | St Patrick's College Chapel, Prospect |
| 9.00am | St Finn Barr's, Invermay |
| 10.30am | Church of the Apostles, Launceston |

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

NEW YEARS DAY Sunday, 1st January 2023

Normal weekend Masses