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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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First Sunday of Advent (YEAR B) - 3RD DECEMBER 2023

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

ADVENT WREATH RESPONSORY

Priest: The Lord is our faith and our life
All: ***May the Lord's peace be with us all***
Priest: May his love shine in our hearts
All: ***Our hope is in the coming of the Lord***

First Sunday of Advent **Mark 13:33-37**

Waiting for the Lord



SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

We are located on the country of the Tyerenotepanner, the Panninher and the Litarimirina people of the Stoney Creek Nation. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners, who have cared for land, sea, waterways and sky, as the ongoing custodians, for thousands of years. We honour Elders, past and present. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Dear Parish family,

As we enter the season of Advent this week, and the final weeks of the year, we may be tempted in our tiredness to express our excitement for the year to be over and to enjoy some well-earned rest during the upcoming summer holidays.

But in this new season, we also enter into the anticipation, with God's people from the Old Testament, for the birth of Christ and for the second coming which is still to be realised. It is a time of new beginnings and hope. New beginnings bring a certain excitement for what is to come, and what the second coming really means. Today's Gospel reminds us that exactly when the second coming will occur is not known to us, therefore, we need to stay awake and be attentive for when that might be. More importantly, we need to keep ourselves in check in regards to how we are living our lives today – Are we fair? Do we treat others with respect?

It is too easy for us to be caught up in the pressures of life, and the ambitions we have. We are at risk of not recognising Christ when he comes, particularly in the lives of the poor and needy.

This Advent, let's make a point in being attentive to those around us, noticing their needs, and doing our bit to meet those needs.

Have a blessed week! *Fr Ben Brooks*



ADVENT PRAYER TREE

Jesus asked the blind man, "What do you want?" The blind man replied, "I want to see."

Jesus is asking you, "What do you want?"

Today we start the journey of Advent preparing ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord, our King. "Be clear, be specific of what you want from your King?"

We invite you to bring your prayers, write it down on the papers being prepared and hang them over the tree.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" Let's pray as community.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

All are invited to come together with other parishioners during Advent as we prepare for and anticipate the Celebration of Jesus Birth. Get away from the hustle and bustle of your busy lives, spend a little time in prayerful reflection, developing a closer relationship with our God, and the true meaning for our celebrations.

Our Advent Reflection will be "**The Sign**" prepared by the Wollongong Diocese. Donation of \$5 for the booklet.

Friday morning 10.30am-11.30am in the Pastoral Centre

Limited copies of "The Sign" are available from the Office for those who may wish to use this resource at home.

Mass for the Unborn

To celebrate the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, the Office of Life, Marriage and Family presents this special Mass in **St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart on Tuesday 12th December, at 7pm**

Please pray for the protection of Human Life in the womb. Enquiries: rachel.bradley@aohtas.org.au

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED especially **Chloe Ralph** (Stuart and Julia) and **Elsie Viney** (Georgina) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

FOR THOSE CELEBRATING MILESTONES Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to **Marie Brearley** who celebrated her **100th Birthday** on the **Thursday 30th November**.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Will Smith, Greg Hopwood, Sr Mary of the Holy Ghost OCD, Merrill Thompson, Deacon Vinco Muriyaden, Fr Terry Yard, Kim Izard, Irene La Palombara, Tina La Palombara, Alana Oehm, Kathy Aldred, Greg Hopwood, Noelene Bye, Peter Brumby, Rod Badcock, Maria Holton, Teresa McMahon, Louisa Buttazzoni, Lalla Smethurst, Sally Griffin (Smethurst), Patsy Heath, Alex Thrower, Marie Cousins, Alida Moolenschot, Archivaldo Pechon, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Bev Callahan, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Mary Morgan, Mary Carter, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Kristel Latham, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Brian Beardwood, 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 and Peter Marshall.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Felesa Buendia who has died recently, Paul Smart, Libby Gregory, Jan Moore, John Tibor, Perry Periera, Ron Butterworth, Mel Cuschieri, Robert Parkes, Cynthia Duncan, Sr Augustine Healey PVBM, we remember all victims of the COVID-19 virus, all those we have been asked to pray for in our November Mass book, all those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for the Holy souls in Purgatory.

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, especially for those who are in hospital, and for their families.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

ONE HOUR WITH JESUS *This Sunday, 3rd December at the Carmelite Monastery.* You are welcome to join the Carmelite nuns in spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: 2.00pm Office of None (afternoon prayer of the Church); 2.15 - 3.00pm Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; 3.00pm Benediction

YOUTH GROUP Will commence again in February 2024. Enquiries: Fr Chathura 0469 661 578

MONDAY NIGHT ROSARY is being held each Monday night in Church of the Apostles at 7.30pm. Come along and offer your thanks to "Our Blessed Mother Mary" for the Blessings she bestows on us each day. **All Welcome.**

MORNING MEDITATION at the **Emmanuel Centre Tuesdays at 11am.** Newcomers are welcome. Enquiries: ph: 6334 1082

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.

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

NO Morning Tea after 10.30am Mass this Sunday (Sausage Sizzle at Riverbend Park 12noon)

St Vincent de Paul Leaving Collection at all Masses this weekend.

Limited copies of The Swag are available in the Church

COLUMBAN CALENDARS are available to purchase in the Church or Parish Office \$10 each

PREPARE



Advent Reflection Day

Saturday 9th December
9.30am for a 10.00am start (until 3.00pm)

St Patrick's College Chapel, 282 Westbury Rd, Prospect
BYO Lunch. Morning Tea provided.

Facilitated by Maureen O'Halloran and Belinda Chapman



**Catholic Parish
of Launceston**

RSVP to Parish Office
launceston@aohtas.org.au
6331 4377

A VOCATION VIEW

It's Advent, almost Christmas! A Season of dreams comes true. Be on guard.

The Lord may call you to follow Him

DINING WITH FRIENDS

An initiative of the St Vincent de Paul Society together with the Launceston Parish.



If you are feeling lonely, would like to make new friends, or would just enjoy a **FREE** home cooked meal prepared by and shared with people who care, please come along to **Dining with Friends.**

Next gathering: Tuesday, 5th December at 6.00pm in the Pastoral Centre. Bookings are essential for catering Enquiries and RSVP phone 6326 5551

St Vincent de Paul Society—Dining with Friends

Operating in two locations in the North, Launceston and George Town. Volunteers prepare a meal for, and share a meal with those in the community who may be feeling lonely, want to make new friends, or simply just wish to share a meal with others.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us on 6326 5551 or north@vinniestas.org.au

Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:

Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish
BSB: 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.
Reference: "your surname"

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/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/>

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

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	Prospect
10.30am	Apostles	
6.30pm	Apostles	

WEEKDAY MASSES 4th—9th December

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturday:	9.30am -10.30am	Apostles
	5.15pm -5.45pm	Newstead



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. Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN..

Celebrating Christmas 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 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 Monday, 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

GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Monday 4th:	Matthew 8:5-11
Tuesday 5th:	Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday 6th:	Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday 7th:	Matthew 7:21,24-27
Friday 8th:	Luke 1:26-38
Saturday 9th:	Matthew 9:35-10:1,6-8

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS: **Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Psalms 84:9-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Matthew 1:1-8



Ponder and pray the living Word of God

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. Donations can also be made by calling 13 18 12 or online at vinnies.org.au

Children's Corner



Christmas

Rearrange the following words to complete the sentence below

Jesus

prepare



season

is the when

we

for the

arrival

Advent

of

at



Light a Candle for Christmas

Archbishop Julian warmly invites you to attend the 2023 Light a Candle for Christmas

Saturday 23 December
10.00am – 2.00pm

Elizabeth St Mall, Hobart

 **Archdiocese of Hobart**