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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**
FACEBOOK: @CatholicParishLaunceston

Second Sunday of Advent (YEAR B) - 10TH DECEMBER 2023

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and lead ing to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and



saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

ADVENT WREATH RESPONSORY

Priest: May the Lord's peace be with us all.

All: ***The Lord is our faith and our life.***

Priest: May His love shine in our hearts.

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

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,

At this time of year, many of us are busy with preparations for the celebration of Christmas – sending cards to family & friends, brightening our homes with Christmas trees & decorations, and shopping! On this second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to pause and think – as we go about our preparations, how are we preparing ourselves spiritually for this ongoing interaction with God who comes to us in an ever more profound way?

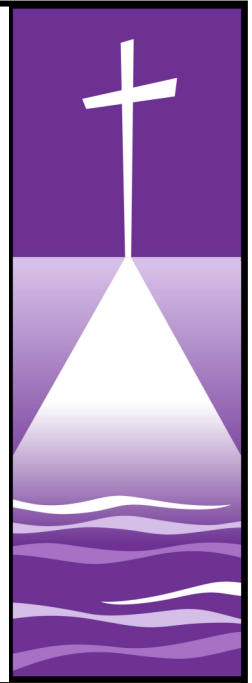
John was a well-known prophet who lived in the wilderness, where many came to hear him and to be baptised. His message was one of Repentance – to change one's way of life in order to be ready to meet the Messiah, the one promised to come.

John has been given the title of Precursor – as his mission was to prepare the way for the Lord to begin his own ministry, and to point the way to him.

We might think of significant people in our lives who have been “precursors”, preparing us for a relationship with Jesus, and life in the Father's kingdom – perhaps it is a parent or grandparent, a teacher or neighbour, a colleague or a friend, whose love for us has nurtured our potential relationship with the Lord. Or perhaps it is someone who has challenged us out of our comfort zone, allowing us to step through our vulnerability into a deeper relationship with God.

This Advent, as we give thanks for all the “precursors” in our lives who help us to be the people we are today, let's cooperate with God's grace, so that we too may be the ones who help others in our lives to open themselves to the same relationship with the Lord.

Have a blessed week! *Fr Ben Brooks*



ADVENT RECONCILIATION

(2nd Rite)

7.30pm, Thursday 14th December

St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION

FOR DECEMBER:

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP Friday morning 10.30am-11.30am in the Pastoral Centre

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.

Limited copies of the Advent Reflection “The Sign” are available from the Office for those who may wish to use this resource at home. Cost: \$5.00

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 **Logan Sackley** (Paul and Gardia) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Will Smith, Merril Thompson, Fr Vinco Muriyaden, Fr Terry Yard, Kim Izard, Irene La Palombara, Tina La Palombara, Noelene Bye, Peter Brumby, Rod Badcock, Maria Holton, Teresa McMahon, Louisa Buttazoni, 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: Greg Hopwood and Benito Gagliardi who have died recently, Kevin Sullivan, Wayne Brooks, Alan Sheedy, K A George, Paul Smart, Libby Gregory, Jan Moore, Natasha Cruz-Gutteridge, Catherine Baker, Geoffrey Ranson, Henryk Stepien, Leonard Rae, Marcello Gugliotti, Eileen Laverack, Brian Hollingworth, Paul Coulson, Jessie McCoy, Giulio Pozzebon, Bessie Slater, Peggy Barrett, Barbara Bedwell, Isabelle Jacobson, Umberto Masciarelli, Brian Morrison, Molly Brooks, David Hardinge, 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

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.**

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

MORNING MEDITATION at the **Emmanuel Centre Tuesdays at 11am** will re-commence on Tuesday 31st January 2024.

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: The Carmel Shop will close on Wednesday 20 December 4pm and will reopen on the 7th February 2024.

POLISH COMMUNITY—CHRISTMAS MASS

Sunday 17th December

3pm in Church of the Apostles

A VOCATION VIEW

The people's cry: “Lord, let us see your kindness”. Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today



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: 3.15pm Wednesday 20th December

Enquiries: Kellie 0400 128 200 or the Parish Office

SACRED HEART CHURCH::

Nativity Rehearsal: 5pm Monday 12th December

5pm Wednesday 14th December

5pm Saturday, 24th December

Enquiries: Belinda.taylor@catholic.tas.edu.au

University Campus Ministry Coordinator

The Archdiocese of Hobart is offering a new position in 2024. It is seeking a University Campus Ministry Coordinator. It is a fulltime position working out of the Chancery Office, but involves active work on the UTAS campuses in both Hobart and Launceston.

A suitable applicant would need some experience in ministry and have an understanding of evangelisation and evangelising catechesis.

Anyone seeking more information about the position is asked to contact Sam Clear at the Office for Youth Evangelisation (samuel.clear@aohtas.org.au).

St Vincent de Paul Society—Dining with Friends

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

**Extra volunteers urgently needed for the
Launceston Parish/ Vinnies initiative**

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 11th—16th 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

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

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



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 11th: Luke 5:17-26
- Tuesday 12th: Matthew 18:12-14
- Wednesday 13th: Matthew 11:28-30
- Thursday 14th: Matthew 11:11-15
- Friday 15th: Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday 16th: Matthew 17:10-13

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS: *Third Sunday of Advent*

- Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
- Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8,19-28



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

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

"I am _____ my
 _____ ahead of you,
 who will _____ your way;
 the _____ of one _____ out
 in the _____:
 'Prepare the _____ of the _____,
 make his paths _____'"

crying
 straight
 way
 voice
 sending
 prepare
 wilderness
 messenger
 Lord

*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



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

Enquiries: Safe Communities officer- Parish Office 63314377 or email: launceston@aohtas.org.au
 Safe Communities Information flyer available in the Church