

STS PETER & PAUL'S

CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE



9 December, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today's Psalm paints a dream-like scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.

It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the One who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration, conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin, if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1–4,11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He's preparing the way, not only for a new redemption of Israel, but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also Acts 28:28).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

Scott Hahn

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil).

Mon - Fri: 8am

Saturday: 10am

Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

PARISH PRIEST:

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Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
9:30am - 3pm

CHRISTMAS
AT
STS PETER & PAUL'S

MASS TIMES
CHRISTMAS EVE
7PM
(6:30PM CAROLS)

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY
10AM

THE FRIARS' CHRISTMAS MARKET
SAT 22 DEC
9AM-2PM

The poster features a central illustration of the Nativity scene, showing Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger. The background is a teal color with red banners for the main text.

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:

Sr. Annunciata Fcj, Pauline O'Hara, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr. Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressia, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxas, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Eunice Costa, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Watkins, Bonnie Breen, Maurita Carlisle, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Mary Quirke, Ilse Miranda, Neil Baker, Helen Keighery, Alison Fraser



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WORKING BEE

We are having a working bee next Saturday morning at 9am to clean and prepare the church for Christmas. If coming please bring dusters, mops, and buckets. Let Geraldine know if you can make it - 0419115565

SPARC WORSHIP NIGHT

Saturday 15 December at 7pm
Mary Help of Christians Church,
Altona

Centred on the theme of Advent, the worship night will encourage us to meditate on God's constant, unconditional and ever present love for us, through song, prayer and time spent with him in adoration.

Thanks to all who helped set up and those who assisted on the day for the Christmas lunch for our Open House guests on Friday

OUTREACH CORNER

We're doing a bit of a drive for tins/jars of instant coffee for Open House and the food van. Any donations would be very much appreciated.



THE **friars'** MARKET

EVERY 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
9AM - 1PM
STS PETER & PAUL'S
CNR MONTAGUE & BANK ST
SOUTH MELBOURNE

Starting Sat 27th Oct

Food, Art, Music and More!

SATURDAY 22ND DECEMBER

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.

Pope Benedict XVI



**ON SALE:
ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS
CHRISTMAS CARDS
2019 COLUMBAN CALENDARS
2019 DAILY MISSALS**

We have a number of things for sale after Mass including a wonderful Advent reflection book titled 'Saviour' which is a pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (2 December 2018) through to the Baptism of the Lord (13 January 2019)

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

There are also Christmas puddings for sale after Mass



**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Wednesday 12 December, 7pm
A Christmas Concert in the glorious setting of St Patrick's Cathedral.
Featuring Anthony Halliday (organ) and Joel Brennan (trumpet). Works by Handel, Bach, Corelli, Daquin and Halliday.
Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/ZEUH>

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John of the Cross - Dec 14

A Carmelite friar and Spanish mystic from the 1500s, St John of the Cross was a major figure in the Counter Reformation. He was a prolific writer, his most famous work being 'Dark Night of the Soul'. He was canonised in 1726 and is one of the thirty six doctors of the Church.

What we need most in order to make progress is to be silent before this great God with our appetite and with our tongue, for the language he best hears is silent love."

