



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR A

27 November 2022

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming.
Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'
He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)



3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' (R.)

4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'



Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 24:37-44 by Greg Sunter

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.

Gospel Focus – Get Ready!

Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah's time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. Inevitably, their lives improved

to such a state that they forgot God was responsible for their blessings. They ignored their relationship with God and became complacent about their good fortune. Ultimately, their comfort was brought to an end and they recognised once again their need for God. Jesus calls the people to get ready because the pattern is repeating itself.

Scriptural context – Burglars in the night

The teachings and sayings of Jesus reveal him to be a clever public speaker and story teller. His use of imagery and language captivated the imagination of his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance and layers of meaning. Today's reading is an example where Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar and is seeking to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly.

Historical Context – The Advent Wreath

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the leaders of the world's great faiths. May they strengthen our hope in the promise of a new heaven and a new earth. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all people stricken by the brutality of war, especially in Ethiopia and Eritrea. May the weapons of war be replaced everywhere by instruments of peace. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those suffering most from the global energy crisis, especially those who cannot afford both food and power. May their plight be eased. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all persons living with a disability. May this week's United Nations Day (3 December) in their honour highlight their needs and their gifts. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for rural families and communities facing devastating losses in the flooding crisis. May they stay strong and not lose heart. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our parish and faith community. May the season of Advent call us to prayer, confirm us in hope, and bless us with peace. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Michael Crosby, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayer; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently Darcy Stewart, Bob Haigh, Ray Bartley, Joseph Nocera recently deceased, those in our Book of Remembrance and those we remember especially in the month of November.. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father,
may your promise and love guide our way on earth.
Amen.

1st Rite of Reconciliation will be available before Mass each week during Advent, 5-5.15pm

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Mick Burke

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SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Next weekend Mass time: 6pm in the church.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday at 10am

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Social Justice Group: now Wednesdays. Next is 7 December at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

Dear Parishioners,



**Confirmation Group 2022
Josh, Lewy, Stella and Elsa**



**Nicholas Ffrench and his family
Nick made his First Holy
Communion last Saturday also**

Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm Saturday 26 November (Quilt weekend).

Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly Raffle – this month the raffle prize is a \$100 fuel voucher; Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Enquiries to Jenni Miller on 0436 339293 this month only. **Jenni is moving from Braidwood** so this will be the last markets that she will organise for us.

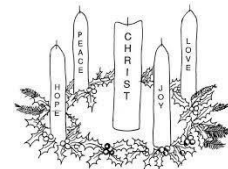
Archbishop lifts Mass exemption from 1st Sunday in Advent. The Archbishop has decided to reinstate the Sunday obligation now that Covid seems to have eased. However, please wear masks while attending Mass if you are more comfortable doing so.

Parish Gathering to discuss possibilities for presbytery redevelopment: a full report will be distributed next week.

The Ukraine raffle run by the Goulburn Surgery raised almost \$20,000, with Braidwood contributing \$901. Local prize winners were: Felix (locally made quilt); Ann Tracey (\$100 voucher to Goulburn RSL); Irene Wolford (\$100 value basket of goodies); Guy Lewis (\$150 voucher to Goulburn RSL). Wendy Hart thanks everyone who bought tickets. Monies raised go towards medicines needed in Ukraine.

Ecumenical Advent Breakfast for Braidwood women

St Bede's warmly invites all women to an Advent prayer Breakfast on Saturday 3rd December 2022, 8-10am in St Bede's school hall, Park lane. Cost: \$10 in a marked envelope with your name to James' coffee window RSVP with money for catering purposes, by the 28th November (no refunds possible due to purchasing costs)



News from the pews: If you have any news or photos to share, please email me. Sharing our news (happy and sometimes sad) is part of "Walking Together" as a parish and community.

First Tuesdays Community Lunch has become First Thursdays as it seems to suit most people. The next First Thursday's lunch is set for 1st December, commencing at 11.30am. Choice of 5 dishes & dessert: \$10 per person Bookings helpful but not essential Contact the Club on 4842 2108 to book. Courtesy bus available - please book Entertainment by the amazing MICHAEL SIMIC

Airing of the Quilts is on this weekend, as well as the **monthly markets**

Year of Walking Together Events

Re-opening and Blessing Mass for Sts. Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn commencing at 11am on Wednesday 30th November.

Readings for Mass: 1st Sunday Advent: 1st: Isaiah 2:1-5. 2nd: Romans 13:11-14. Gospel: Matt. 24:37-44.

Readings for next week: 1st: Isaiah 11:1-10. 2nd: Romans 15:4-9. Gospel: Matt. 3:1-12.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	Powerpoint:
26 Nov		Helen P	Michael/Wendy H	Cathy F
3 Dec	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy	Helen H
10 Dec		Geraldine	Wendy H/Germaine	Helen H
17 Dec	Felix	Cathy F	Wendy M-B/Ann	Helen H

Ministries of service:	2 Dec	9 Dec	16 Dec	23 Dec
Altar Decorating:	Helen P	Cathy	Margaret	all please
Cleaning:		Pauline & Wendy		Bronnie & Felix

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H
3rd Sunday: 4th: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other,
Helen Hart

