

St Peter's Catholic Parish

6th December, 2020 – **Second Sunday of Advent**

Our mission as the Christian community of St Peter's Parish, enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that other may experience the love of Christ.

We sincerely acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Yuin people.

Comfort my people

The word 'power' can have negative echoes for us, suggesting an overbearing will to dominate others. Isaiah speaks about power of the Lord that in a very different way. God is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them to his breast, and gently leading the ewes who are due to give birth. This is a very tender power, a life-force of faithful and enduring love, a love that gathers and nurtures and reassures. This is the God whom John the Baptist invites us to rediscover this Advent.

It is this God who comes to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. John the Baptist refers to Jesus as "more powerful than I am." Jesus is the powerful one, in the sense that the first reading defines power. He gives full expression to God's tender love that brings healing to the broken, strength to the weak and rest to the weary. It is this adult Jesus, now risen Lord, whose coming towards us and present to us we celebrate at Christmas. The Baptist calls us this Advent to prepare a way in our lives for the coming of this Lord, this Shepherd, in whom *mercy and faithfulness have met, justice and peace have embraced.* (Responsorial Psalm). This is the God whom we seek this Advent, who can give greater depth to all our other encounters. HAVE A BLESSED SUNDAY!!!!

Churches, Mass Celebrations and Prayer

Churches

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden
St Joseph's, Merimbula
St Peter's. Pambula
St Joseph's, Wyndham

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 9:30am-10am, Merimbula
Saturday, before Vigil Mass, Eden

Adoration

1st Friday of the month at 8:30am, Merimbula
1st Sunday at 3pm, Eden

Weddings

By appointment only – at least 6 months notice in advance.

Mass Times

Saturday, 6pm, Eden
Sunday, 8am, Merimbula
Sunday, 10am, Merimbula
Tuesday 5pm, Merimbula
Wednesday, 9:30am, Merimbula
Thursday, 9:30am Eden
Friday, 9:30am Merimbula

Sacrament of Baptism

Welcoming Mass – 4th Sat/Sun of the month prior to Baptism. During Mass on 1st Saturday/Sunday of the month. Please ring office for all Baptism preparation enquiries

Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

Tuesdays at 4:30pm, St Joseph's Merimbula

Contact Details

Parish Priest

Fr Paletasala (Pale) Leota

Parish Secretary

Mrs Patricia Field

Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffeman

Finance Chair

Mr Neil Ffrench

Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles (02)64958888

Parish Office

Hours - 10am to 1pm
Wednesday to Thursday,
Phone - (02) 6495 1880
Email - pambula@cg.org.au
Web -
www.cg.org.au/pambula
Address - 79 Main Street, PO BOX 249, Merimbula, NSW, 2548



A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.....



"Enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit"

Feasts of the Week ...

Tuesday 8th Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colours are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise.

Readings of the Week ...

Monday	Is	35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Gen	3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1,26-38
Wednesday	Is	40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Is	41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is	48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sirach	48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:10-13

Parish News and Events ... Please ring 0488033950 for any parish inquiries

Reception of OSCAR RAY CARR to be Baptised into our Parish.

We warmly welcome Oscar Carr into our Parish and will support him in prayer, praying to God for the gift of a strong faith for him and his family.

Solemn Feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY on Tuesday at 5pm. Rosary Devotion will be prayed at 4.30pm before Mass.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS: Will be held on Wednesday 9th December at 11am, Merimbula

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION – Thursday December 17th, 7pm Merimbula

ADVENT PREPARATIONS: The parish has purchased the Wollongong Diocese's Advent program "ADORE" which has daily reflections. The cost per book is \$5.00 If you would like to purchase a book to use in your own home are now available from the parish office.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU REGISTER FOR CHRISTMAS MASS

Christmas Eve - December 24th	5pm	<i>Lumen Christi Catholic College</i>	Pambula Beach Road
	7pm	<i>Our Lady Star of the Sea,</i>	Eden
	9pm	<i>St Joseph's</i>	Merimbula

Christmas Day – December 25th	8am & 10am		Merimbula
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N.B. We have added an extra Mass on Christmas Day at 8am, Merimbula to accommodate everyone due to large number of visitors around the area. Please be advised to consider attending either the 9pm or 8am Mass

Book-in for Mass

Please remember that as per restrictions we are still expected **to book and check in for mass**, maintain a spacial-distance of 2 square metres, receive Holy Communion in the hand only, refrain from physical contact when offering the Sign of Peace, and to sanitise when entering and exiting the premises. Please email or ring the parish office between 10am and 1pmpm Wed - Fri. Ph: 0488033950 - https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/201008_UpdatedArchProtocols_PercyA.pdf

REMINDER: The maximum number of people at a religious service (*not including weddings and funerals*) must not exceed 300 (76) people in or outside subject to the 4 square meter rule.

PLEASE KEEP FOLLOWING ALL OF THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN THE CHURCH

Columban Calendars 2021 are now available in the Parish Office at \$10 each.

The **Catholic Daily Voice** is available for you to subscribe to and receive via email by clicking on the attached link: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/> and follow instructions online to subscribe.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgivng be every moment thine.

Let Us Pray for and support those who are sick

Ysmael Valencia, Danielle Sou, Max Andrew, David Went, Ros Beveridge, Roy and Joy Bugden, Eric Mangion, Maureen Partridge, Marie Hart, Anselmo Guiffre, Beata Denkwicz, Peter Hamer.

For the Faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including,

Olga Novinc, Kieth Balantyne, Kim Geraghty, Dawn Lucas, James Barry, Greg Morrison, Claire Thomas, Glyneth Middlemiss, Brian Middlemiss, Errol Cole, Mary D'Arcy.

May the Souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colours are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise. *Laudato Si (2015) 235*

The Christian vision of death receives privileged expression in the liturgy of the Church, "Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven".

Instruction Ad resurgendum cum Christo 2016

The Divine Mercy of Jesus - 3 O'clock Prayer "The Hour of Great Mercy"

Jesus said: Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give that person the grace of conversion. This is the prayer; **"O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in you."**

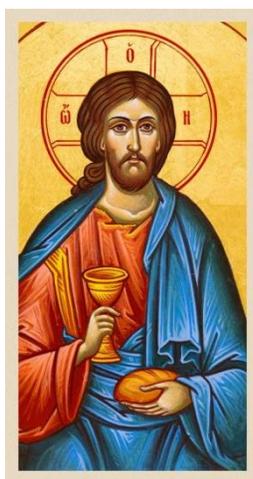
The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed before Mass on Sunday and Adoration and Benediction on every First Friday at 8.30am Merimbula Church.

Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

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.

Prayer for Australia

Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



Prayer after Communion

Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith the day of our risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you. O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine. All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

Second Advent Candle (*Re-light the first candle before continuing*).

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Prayer: God of the prophets: in the wilderness of Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of your son. Help us to hear the good news, to be truly sorry for our sins, and to be ready to welcome the Lord, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lighting the second candle: We light this candle to remind us of how the way was prepared for Jesus' coming. We hope that as Advent light increases, our own readiness may also increase.

Prayer: Christ Jesus, no one is a stranger to you. You prayed, but you also understood those who never prayed. You never hurt anyone, but you weren't ashamed to be crucified with common thieves.

You make God known to us, and you make us known to God. You can make the darkness and the despair of our lives shine like day. You are the light of the world, the dawning of a new day. Live within us, we pray. Amen.

BECOMING CATHOLIC - THREE CHURCHES ONE PARISH

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic faith?

Welcome!

The Catholic Church's mission is to offer people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to deepen their understanding and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Becoming Catholic involves a journey of faith, accompanied by the support of a parish community. This process is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. During the RCIA process you meet with others to share, reflect, pray and learn more about the Catholic faith. There are ceremonies or 'rites' at each stage to signify the steps along the way. If you or someone you know would like to know more about becoming Catholic or would like to start the process of becoming Catholic as an adult, please contact our Parish Office.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

St Augustine, a great Saint of the Church, said, "Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you."

The RCIA is for all seeking to become members of the Catholic Church.

The RCIA is best described as a journey of faith that passes through a number of different phases and focuses on conversion of heart and mind to Christ. It is a gradual journey tailored to the needs of the individual.

It is a faith journey of adults to initiation through the unified rites of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Grounded in the four pillars of Word, Liturgy, Community and Mission, adults are provided with a sponsor, meet regularly to learn about Catholicism and become part of the fabric of the Parish prior to initiation.

The faith journey is adapted for children of catechetical age (8-17 years) and adults who are already baptised in another Christian tradition. It is a process for those who have not been Baptised at all, for those who have been Baptised into another Christian tradition and also for those who have been Baptised Catholic but have not throughout their lives been involved at all in the Catholic faith but are now wanting to make that Faith journey/commitment in their lives, and for all to become full members of the Catholic Church.

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Prayer Over the Offering

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy.

Prayer After Communion

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.

First Reading: Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘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 leading 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 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

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: Lk 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: Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
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.’

“Opening up to the world” is an expression that has been co-opted by the economic and financial sector and is now used exclusively of openness to foreign interests or to the freedom of economic powers to invest without obstacles or complications in all countries. Local conflicts and disregard for the common good are exploited by the global economy in order to impose a single cultural model. This culture unifies the world, but divides persons and nations, for ‘as society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours, but does not make us brothers’.[9] We are more alone than ever in an increasingly massified world that promotes individual interests and weakens the communitarian dimension of life.

How do you feel about what Pope Francis has written here?

How would you talk with your family and friends about it?

Taken from Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship by Pope Francis, article 12, /en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica <http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco-fratelli-tutti.html>

Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, begins on this Sunday, November 29th. Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.

In our Churches, we celebrate Advent by putting up an Advent Wreath and lighting candles each week. Our Advent Wreath is located at the front next to the sanctuary and we are encouraged to look at it and contemplate the meaning of Advent.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes **hope**. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents **faith**. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is **pink** and symbolizes **joy**. It is called the “Shepard's Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the **fourth week** of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel's Candle,” symbolizes **peace**. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

The **white candle** is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “**Christ Candle**” and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare your mind and heart for Christmas. Welcome to Advent and may this holy season prepare us to celebrate PEACE and JOY of Christ.