

## SCRIPTURE:

Baruch5:1-9;Psalm125;Phillippians1:4-6,8-11;Luke3:1-6

## NEXT WEEK:

Zephaniah3:14-18;Isaiah12:2-6;Philippians 4:4-7;Luke3:10-18

## PURIFIERS:

**9<sup>th</sup> December:** Patricia Campbell

**16<sup>th</sup> December:** May Comas

## RECENTLY DECEASED: Marcelino Dicay

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Aleyamma Jacob, Annunziata Cutrt, Eufemia Cutrt, Frank Canny, Sergio Andrade, Stephen Cole, Evelyn Christopher, Patrick Flood, James Graham, Lilian Graham, Noel Phillips, Sarah Hodson, Ben Howe.

## ARE YOU NEW TO OLA PARISH?

Please take a copy of our Welcome Kit which includes a copy of our Parish History, then tell us about yourself by completing our new parish census card with all relevant details.

## PLEASE FILL IN THE FAMILY BOOK:

You are invited to write in the names of those you would like us to include in our prayers. When entering names of deceased loved ones we ask parishioners to please **PRINT**, and add your name and phone number even if the deceased is not a family member.

## BAPTISMS/WEDDINGS:

Baptisms are celebrated at 12.15 pm most Sundays of the year with 4/5 weeks' notice required for bookings. Any Catholic is very welcome to use OLA Church for their marriage celebration, six mths notice or longer would be appreciated. 95836161.

**THE PIETY SHOP:** Come support our Piety Shop, and be greeted by our amazing volunteers after mass. Columban calendars, cards and beautiful gifts available for Christmas. Our Stations of the Cross DVD/Booklet would make a great Christmas present. All proceeds go to our St Vincent De Paul Conference.

We, the people of OLA, acknowledge and pay respect to the Boonwurong people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand.  
May we walk gently here.

## Liturgy Times:

### **Monday Dec 11**

9.15am Communion Service

Tuesday Dec 12

6.00 pm Mass

### **Wednesday Dec 13**

9.15 am Mass (10.00 Cheltenham Manor)

### **Thursday Dec 14**

9.15 am Mass

### **Friday Dec 15**

9.15 am Communion Service  
(Staff Masses Kilbreda & St Bede's)

### **Saturday Dec 16**

9.00 am Mass

6.30 pm Mass (3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent)

### **Sunday Dec 17**

9.00 am Mass

11.00 am Mass

## Confessions:

Wednesday 9.40am

Saturday 9.30am & 6.00pm

## FAITH SHARING DISCUSSION GROUP:

Meet each Thursday at 2pm in the Parish House. All are very welcome.



## ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER:

2.00pm in the church, each Thursday  
in Advent. ALL WELCOME

## PSALM REFLECTION:

**The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

Think on the "marvel God has done"  
through our community at OLA.  
How has your life been touched?



**Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Cheltenham**

**Parish House:9583 6161 Parish School:9584 9488**

**Email:** [Cheltenham@cam.org.au](mailto:Cheltenham@cam.org.au)

[www.olacheltenham.org.au](http://www.olacheltenham.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Peter Matheson

**Pastoral Associates:** Frances North and Christine Dunne

**Psychologist:** AnneMaree Eddy

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C (Dec 9, 2018)**

Today's gospel introduces the preaching of John the Baptist announcing the nearness of the salvation of God. His words are spoken in the wilderness to the east of Jerusalem, where the sun would rise over the wilderness. Luke's insertion of the John the Baptist tradition in his gospel is coloured by his "Christology," his understanding of the mission and role of Jesus. The components of John's ministry, as well as Jesus, is set in the framework of world and religious history. It happens when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. It happens in a world coloured by poverty and sinfulness. The poor are invited to be washed of their sins.

"Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever." These are the opening words of the reading from the Prophet Baruch today (5:1-9). The prophecies of Baruch were composed about 550years before Christ during the time of the Jewish exile in Babylon. So the "dress of sorrow and distress" has its context. The very name of Jerusalem means "city of peace." But often in its long history peace was at a premium. The city was largely destroyed by the Romans in 70AD and the Jewish people scattered around the ancient world. Now Jerusalem is a city where the three major religions now have a foothold. In a few weeks a few of us from OLA, who are joining the St Bede's pilgrimage to Israel, will be walking around its streets.

The Jewish people remember the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1938. It was called Kristallnacht when the Nazis smashed their way through Germany, torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools and businesses and killed close to 100 Jews. Nearly a month later on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1938 an aboriginal elder of the Yorta Yorta people called William Cooper led a march through Melbourne to the German Consulate to protest the action of the Nazis. On the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event last Thursday there was a march through Melbourne from the Flagstaff Gardens to the Alexandra Gardens to honour William Cooper's memory to make a similar stand on behalf of his people and their future.

We prepare to commemorate the birth of Jesus once again in a matrix of world political and religious history. Here in Australia political tensions are uppermost following the Victorian elections, along with widespread secular non-belief. This constitutes much of our Australian landscape this Christmas. To all who believe, may it truly be a time to experience the glory of God.

**Fr.Peter**

## **ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION**

Will be celebrated on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, at 7.30pm.

**ALL WELCOME**

**REMINDER: PARISH CHRISTMAS DRINKS:** 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm – ALL WELCOME

Letters of appreciation and invitation for our marvellous volunteers are in the foyer for collection. ***Please don't forget to pick up your invite after mass. Thank you.***

**MINISTRY SIGN UP SHEETS FOR 2019:** Still forms for next year to fill out if you are wanting to volunteer. We also welcome new parishioners to assist with the many ministries we have through the parish. Thank you most sincerely for your wonderful support.

**PARISH MISSION:** The dates for our second Mission will be the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. Our 2nd Mission has a different thrust from the first Mission program. Where the first Mission sets out to help people understand the changes in the Church since Vatican II, the second Mission program focuses on helping people come to terms with the changes in the world. ALL WELCOME.

**KNITTING GROUP:** The knitting group would like to thank their wonderful supporters. They have given St Vincent De Paul \$1,540.00. Their knitting break-up will be Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm in the church meeting room. 'Remember, I never met a knitter I didn't like!

**TAI CHI AND GENTLE EXERCISE:** A reminder that classes will be finishing on 12<sup>th</sup> December and recommencing on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**SENIORS:** Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who have made our seniors very happy and loved during the year. The seniors group will break up on 13th December – and return 7th February 2019.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:** Students who do not attend OLA Primary for 2019, we are now accepting names of children who will be in Year 3 (Reconciliation and First Holy Communion), and Year 6 (Confirmation) in 2019. Please remember, children need to be baptised. Lessons will be held on Monday afternoons from 4-5pm. Please ring the parish office on 95836161 to enrol.

**O.L.A Social Golf** - Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December. Twilight Golf at Cheltenham but Dinner at RSL Cheltenham. More Players Needed & Non-golfers Also Welcome for Dinner. See Entry sheet on table in foyer-golf 3.30pm, & dinner 7pm. Enquiries- via the parish office on 95836161.

**PARISH COUNSELLING:** Providing free short term counselling. Contact Parish Office for appointments.

## **POPE AT AUDIENCE:**

At the Wednesday General audience at the Vatican this week, Pope Francis began a new cycle of catechesis, focusing on the Lord's prayer. 'The Gospels have given us a very vivid portrait of Jesus as a man of prayer,' the Pope said. Despite the demands placed on Him by the people, Jesus often felt the need 'to withdraw into solitude and pray.' Pope Francis continued, 'it seems that it is Jesus' prayer above all, his intimacy with the Father, that governs everything.' Jesus does not want to keep His intimacy with His Father to Himself, but 'came precisely in order to introduce us into this relationship with the Father.' We too must make our own the prayer of the disciples: 'Lord, teach us to pray.' 'Even if we have been praying for many years,' Pope Francis said, 'we always have something to learn.'

**Sr Mary Coloe PBVM** has just published a wonderful new small book called "**A Friendly Guide to the Birth of Jesus.**" She writes that when we read the infancy stories of Jesus we are reading stories that were composed by Luke and Matthew long after Jesus had lived on earth. They knew what his birth 80 or 90 years earlier had now meant to them and their communities of faith. And that must have reflected back at the time of his birth. So it is a birth worth expanding upon. The only birth accounts in ancient literature referred to people who had become great like Caesars and Pharaohs. So people transferred this greatness back into their beginnings. So this becomes a friendly reminder as we enter the Christmas season.

**SR. SUE SHANNON:** This weekend we will be selling Sr Sue's amazing cards. All the money raised will go to the charity that supported Sr. Sue's work with HIV children in Bangkok. Her legacy will live on. Thank you for your continued support.

## **HEALING MASS THANK YOU:**

Heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful parishioners who assisted with the setting up of the meeting room, assisted with transport, and brought refreshments to the healing mass on Friday. We are truly blessed to have such compassionate people within our community. Thank you also to those who have helped throughout the year, and have made the healing masses such a beautiful experience for those attending.



I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR