

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

**NEXT WEEK:** Micah5:1-4;Psalm79:2-3,15-16,18-19;Hebrews10:5-10;Luke1:39-44

**PURIFIERS:**

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> December:** Marjorie Connolly

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Peter Rocke, Noli Castro, Carolyn Hoult, Winefreda Roderos, Fr Jim Victory. **ANNIVERSARIES:** Susan Duke, John Lynch, Frank Devine, Jean Wallis, Craig Blair, Violet Hogg, Dot Nelson, Domenico De Gilio, Jean Bence(Renkin), Des Vincent, Shelton Eardley, Noel & Alice Larkins, Mary O'Brien.

**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. 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 Boonwong 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 17**

9.15 am Communion Service

**Tuesday Dec 18**

6.00 pm Mass

**Wednesday Dec 19**

9.15 am Mass

10.15 am End of Year school Mass

**Thursday Dec 20**

9.15 am Mass

**Friday Dec 21**

9.15 am Mass

**Saturday Dec 22**

9.00 am Mass

6.30 pm Mass (4<sup>th</sup> of Advent)

**Sunday Dec 23**

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:**

**To you O Lord, I lift my soul;  
to you I lift my soul**

What do you think ought to be proclaimed loudly about God's deeds? Why? How will you be a proclaimer?



**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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C (Dec 16, 2018)**

Today's gospel speaks of a feeling of expectation that had grown among the people. Was John the Baptist the expected messiah? Or was someone else to come? The feelings of expectation experienced by the Year 12 students waiting for their exam results have been intense this week, but now hopefully they can sit back relaxed and smiling, knowing that a new horizon has opened up for them. Our Year 6's celebrated their last day of Primary schooling on Friday with their Graduation Mass, and a new horizon of Secondary Schooling opens up for them.

During the week **Lyn Dobson** and her generous helpers put on the annual Christmas lunch for the seniors group. The heavy rain kept a few away but I thank Lyn again for all she and her group of faithful helpers do. All were warmly entertained by the kids in the school choir singing all the happy jingle bell songs of Christmas. Afterwards in the church they were entertained by the Prep kids all dressed up as angels or shepherds or wise men or innkeepers telling the Christmas story in their own ways.

The joyfulness of the Prep kids' celebration was a great start to the joyfulness that pervades the liturgy today. The third Sunday of Advent is called "Rejoice Sunday" or "Gaudete Sunday." Today we light the third candle of the wreath, the pink candle. It reflects the joy of the day, and the joy in the readings. The prophet Zephaniah cries out that God is dancing with joy over his people. His message was addressed to a specific moment in history about 625 years before Christ, when the power of Assyria was on the wane. The great hope of deliverance was strong. Today's gospel records the voice of John the Baptist crying out to people, calling them to act with justice. The moment for the appearance of Christ was near. And God was dancing with joy over them.

2018 ends in a black hole fuelled by Royal Commissions, Brexit failures, political back-stabbing, social media bullying, Donald Trump, and the continuing suppression of news relating to the trial of Cardinal Pell. We come to Christmas 2018 and we are confronted by paradox: despair on the one hand, and joy on the other. Which will win? Who wants to hasten to a stable? Is this really great news of great joy for all the people? I suspect we have lost our sense of amazement. Certainly society as a whole has lost interest in Christianity, and indeed all religions. We are a very secular postmodern society. But with Luke I believe Jesus has been born for you and me. In his birth God has blessed you so much, and blessed me too. **Fr.Peter**

## **ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION**

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

**ALL WELCOME**

## **SPECIAL EVENT -A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**



### **SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> December 5pm:**

An opportunity to welcome home Sr. Pat Fox from her tireless work for the poor in the Philippines. Christine, Sam and Amanda Hargreaves will be singing and the occasion promises to be a moving, uplifting and truly beautiful celebration. An opportunity too to support Sr. Pat's work.

**ALL ARE VERY WELCOME**

### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:**

Students who do not attend OLA Primary school, 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.

### **CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:**

2019 Study Options Now Available! See noticeboard for more details.

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Options: *Choice of Philosophy, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Religious Education or Christian Spirituality units*

*Audit options available.* Enquiries: Mr. John Bartholomeusz, Assistant Dean  
T: 9412 3309 E: [ctc@ctc.edu.au](mailto:ctc@ctc.edu.au)

### **CAMINO PILGRIMAGE:**

Sunday 20 January 2019, 2pm. The Garden, Mind Body Business, 4 Ross Smith Avenue, Frankston. This free information event is for women who are interested in joining a Guided Camino Pilgrimage in September 2019. Come along and find out how you can be part of our Gentle Camino. This unique Guided Camino Pilgrimage has been specifically designed to offer you guided meditations, nightly sharing circle, quiet reflection, prayers and Mass, pre-booked accommodation and daily luggage transfers. We will be walking an average of 10–15km per day over the last 100km from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, starting 9 September 2019.

**Website:** [www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au](http://www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au)

**Registrations:** Joanne Cashman on 0417 137 369 or  
[caminojourneysforwomen@gmail.com](mailto:caminojourneysforwomen@gmail.com) or register online at  
[www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au](http://www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au)

## **THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 23 Dec 2018**

Christmas edition then we enter the summer series until February.

This week on The Journey, the Gospel reflection is from the Diocese of Wollongong Advent reflection booklet, Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from the Abbey with her Christmas reflection, Bruce Downes the Catholic Guy reminds us to be still before God, and The Pirolas encourage us to Make A Change For The Better. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we say thank you for your support with Journey Catholic Radio for another year. God Bless, and Merry Christmas from all of us here at the Diocese of Wollongong. Go to [WWW.jcr.org.au](http://WWW.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**OUR PIETY SHOP:** Still plenty of time to purchase beautiful Christmas Cards, Calendars and gifts from our piety shop. Also, our Stations of the Cross DVD and booklet would make a wonderful Christmas gift too. All money raised goes to our St Vincent De Paul conference. Thank you once again to Felicity and her wonderful volunteers who run the shop after our masses, you are truly wonderful parishioners.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION: WORLD YOUTH DAY @ HOME – REGISTRATIONS CLOSING SOON! Sunday 20 to Sunday 27 January 2019**

**PGL Campaspe Downs, 1302 Trentham Road, Kyneton**

In 2019, the Melbourne Summer School of Evangelisation in partnership with the Archdiocesan Office for Youth will be offering a special WYD-themed Summer School! The Summer School will include many of WYD features such as Catechesis with bishops, a Stations of the Cross, an expo and a final Mass. Join Bishop Mark Edwards and participants from around Australia for a week of faith and fellowship. Open to young people aged 16-35. Registrations close December 20. To register visit: [www.cam.org.au/wyd/wydhome](http://www.cam.org.au/wyd/wydhome).

### **PARISH COUNSELLING:**

Providing free short term counselling. Contact Parish Office for appointments.

**THANK YOU:** Special thanks go out to W.D.Rose in Cheltenham. They kindly donated some wonderful chairs for our church meeting room, and church pews for the school hall. A very generous donation for which we are very thankful.

**MINISTRIES:** If you would still like to volunteer please ring the parish office on 9583 6161. Thank you



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-22-2004

**WHEN CHRISTMAS PLAYS COLLIDE**