

St. John's Parish

"Hand In Hand "

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR A
7th December 2025



St John's Church –
52 Waterloo Rd, Trafalgar

St Jarlath's Church –
cnr Campbell and Rollo Sts. Yarragon

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr. Bernard Buckley VG Phone: 5633 1166

PARISH SECRETARY: Mrs. Julianne Keily.
Parish e-mail: trafalgar@cdsale.org.au

OUR SCHOOLS:
St Joseph's Primary School

58 Waterloo Rd. Phone 5633 1151
Mrs Trish Mulqueen - Principal

Marist Sion College
165 Burke St. Warragul. Phone: 5623 5944
Ms Lisa Harkin - Principal

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

- St John's: Saturday: Vigil Mass – 6pm
St Jarlath's: Sunday 10:00am

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY:

Monday	8.12:	---
Tuesday	9.12:	10:00am St John's
Wednesday	10.12:	10:00am St John's
Thursday	11.12:	
Friday	12.12:	10:00am St John's

RECONCILIATION: The sacrament of Reconciliation can be celebrated at St John's on Saturday from 10:00am, or any time by arrangement with Father.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY: 'We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, the Gunnai Kurnai people. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country; and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

Pope Leo is thinking of the Christian minorities who live in the midst of war. In fact, in this last prayer intention of the year, the Holy Father asks that we pray "that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope."

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

THE CONFITEOR: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; *(All strike their breast 3 times)* therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

GLORIA: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

APOSTLES' CREED: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

OUR PARISH CODE OF CONDUCT: Central to the mission of St. John's Parish, Trafalgar, and St. Jarlath's community, Yarragon is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of all children, young people and adults at risk and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

CELEBRANT: Dear friends, baptised by Christ with the Holy Spirit and fire, let us pray that all people will see the salvation of God.

READER: We pray for the prophets who challenge the world to change its ways, that their call to conversion will help save life on earth. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who live in societies terrorised by armed gangs and militias, that they will be delivered from the fear and chaos they suffer. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have sought refuge in Australia but remain without support and security, that their dream of making a new life here will be fulfilled without further delay. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all whose loving relationships have ended in divorce or separation, that with the aid of family and friends they will be free to make a fresh start. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for students graduating from secondary school or higher education, that they will make wise choices about their future path in life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently . . . , and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will see God face to face and enjoy eternal life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CELEBRANT: Saving God, you bless us each year with this season of hope. Renew in us, we pray, the trusting faith of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We ask this through him, Christ our Lord.

A REFLECTION: We are all accountable, not just for our own sins, but for those of everyone. When people understand this, God's Kingdom will no longer be a dream but a reality. To change the world, we must change our thinking. There can be no fellowship until all persons are sisters and brothers to one another. There is no science; no pursuit of personal gain, that will enable us to share our goods fairly, and to respect each other's rights. In order for heaven on earth to come about, we must stop our isolation. In the end this will happen. People will realise how unnatural it is to isolate themselves from one another, and will look back in amazement at when they sat in darkness and refused to see the light. Until that day comes we must keep hope alive, and now and then someone must set an example.

ST JARLATH'S NEWS: The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be offered after Mass next Sunday, 14/12, at St Jarlath's. Anyone seeking strength in body or soul, mind or spirit, is invited to gather after Mass.

The next meeting of the Prayer Group is on Monday, 15/12 at 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS APPEAL: *Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity.* This Christmas, Caritas invites Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty, particularly in Ukraine. You can donate today at: www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal

THANK YOU: With grateful thanks from us all to those who are on the rosters and generously do important ministries among us. And to all who keep our property looking so good, thank you! It takes a lot of people, effort and time to look after our buildings and grounds, on both parish campuses.

WE REMEMBER: We pray for those who have died recently including Doris Fonk; and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including: Jack Kilday, James Fennell. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: We pray the Lord's healing touch upon Randy Jansz, Roy Kenyon, Patrick Featonby, Jean Huffer, Elly Van Den Broek, Connor O'Sullivan, Shirley Deane, Peg O'Rourke, Shirley Devlin, Ann Ford, Lesli Perera, Kellie Monson, Brian O'Connell, Fr Bernie Krotwaar, Fr Michael Willemsen. *God of all consolation, you sent your Son to heal the world. Graciously listen to our prayers of faith for the sick: send the power of your Holy Spirit, the Consoler upon all who call on the Lord's healing touch.* (Rite of Anointing of the Sick)

NEWS FROM ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL: Our school recently gathered for a beautiful Advent Liturgy, preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christmas. We reflected on the meaning of the Advent wreath and its four themes: hope, love, joy, and peace.

On Wednesday, we joined the local community at MacGregor Park for Christmas Carols, performing two festive songs and sharing in the joy of the season.

Friday was a special day as our younger students farewelled their Year 6 buddies during a whole-school assembly. We also celebrated the winners of the Mini Vinnies "Guess the Number of Lollies in the Jar" competition.

GST' JARS: The fundraising goes on at St John's with the GST (God's Special Tasks) jars to help pay the interest on the diocesan loan for our church refurbishment. Please take a jar from the back of the church and, as you can spare it, pop in your loose change. No coin is too small, no note is too large! Full jars can be brought to the church on any weekend and will be collected and banked. Many thanks for your continuing generosity. More information? See Judith.

PRAYING AS ONE: Thanks to all at St John's for leaving empty the last few rows of pews when we gather for Eucharist in our vast church. When there are smaller numbers there, it's great we can sit closer to each other rather than all across the seating area. The hope is that, with the back 4 or 5 pews empty, we will have a heightened sense of being God's people 'gathered as one', a bit like when the family gathers at the dining table for a celebratory meal. It's a great gift to itself, for a community to 'pray as one'.

THE LATE POPE FRANCIS ON THE EUCHARIST: *When we receive the Eucharist, Jesus does the same with us: he knows us; he knows we are sinners; he knows we make many mistakes, but he does not give up on joining his life to ours. He knows that we need it, because the Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect, but nourishment for sinners. This is why he exhorts us: 'Do not be afraid! Take and eat.'*

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND: Funds invested with CDF are used to support the mission of the Church by providing low cost funding for Catholic capital building projects in: Parishes, Catholic Primary Schools and Colleges, Religious Orders, Diocesan Agencies and Catholic Church organisations in the work of Health and Aged Care. People can invest in the CDF Community Fund, where a Term Deposit of 6 months will earn 4.3%. Visit CDF.org.au

OUT OF THE WILDERNESS: The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

YOUNG PILGRIMS URGED TO NURTURE THE LIFE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN:

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival concluded on Tuesday, with Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli sending the 6000 young participants forth as "pilgrims of hope" and "the Spirit's new shoots". Archbishop Comensoli urged the young pilgrims attending the Commissioning Mass at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to nurture the life of the Holy Spirit within, which contrasts with the lack of hope experienced by so many.

"In a world that often trades in distrust, anxiety and the fear of not fitting, the Spirit has been growing in you," the Archbishop said. "Mercy instead of refusal, listening instead of shouting, serving instead of influencing." The tone of the final day of ACYF was markedly different from the previous days.

Eucharistic adoration prefaced the busyness of activities, workshops, and "bishops' X-Changes" – a unique feature that provided an opportunity for young people to enter into conversation with the bishops on important topics of faith and culture.

In the more contemplative atmosphere, Wagga Wagga Bishop Mark Edwards OMI guided the young pilgrims, inviting them to let the Lord into their hearts. "Give Him your whole heart," he said. "Let Him rearrange the furniture of your soul. That's how the great adventure of giving your life to God begins."

At the conclusion of Mass, Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP extended a formal invitation to all to Sydney for the 2028 Australian Catholic Youth Festival, which he said would form a "crucial strand" of the International Eucharistic Congress.

"Look around you," he said, after thunderous applause. "There are 6000 of you here for this festival. Now multiply that in your imagination by 10 to 60,000, then multiply that by 10 more to 600,000. How's that for a goal?" Archbishop Fisher encouraged the young pilgrims to grow in their Eucharistic faith, to participate in the pilgrimages, processions and catechesis of their local communities, and to prepare well in advance for the 2028 combined ACYF and IEC experience.

DIALOGUE AND RESPECT COULD HELP END MIDDLE EAST

CONFLICTS: POPE: At the end of his first foreign trip as Pope, which focused on dialogue, Pope Leo XIV said the examples of friendship and respect he had witnessed could serve as a helpful model for others.

For example, the stories of Christians and Muslims helping each other in Lebanon when their villages were destroyed offer the lesson that "we should perhaps be a little less fearful and look for ways of promoting authentic dialogue and respect," the Pope told reporters during his flight to Rome from Lebanon on Tuesday.

Often, fear of Muslims in the West is "generated by people who are against immigration and are trying to keep out people who may be from another country, another religion, another race," he said. "In that sense, I would say that we all need to work together."

Pope Leo left Rome for Türkiye on November 27 and flew to Lebanon on November 30. On the way home, he spent more than 25 minutes responding to reporters' questions. After his repeated appeals throughout the trip for an end to violence in the Middle East, Pope Leo was asked if he would "use his connections" with US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to promote peace in the region.

"I believe sustainable peace is achievable," the Pope said, adding that the Vatican's diplomatic efforts, though, take place mostly "behind the scenes". The important thing, he said, was that those involved in armed conflict silence their weapons and sit at the same table to negotiate peace.

Responding to a question about dialogue and friendship, Pope Leo said his episcopal motto, *In Illo Uno Unum* (In the One, we are one), is an obvious reference to the unity found with faith in Christ. But it also is "an invitation to all of us and to others to say, 'The more we can promote authentic unity and understanding, respect and human relationships — so friendship and dialogue in the world — the greater possibility there is that we will put aside the arms of war.'"

BISHOP'S ADVENT MESSAGE: Bishop Greg has prepared an Advent message for all in the Diocese of Sale as Christmas approaches. You can find it on Youtube. *Our hope has a name. And that name is Jesus Christ!*

CELEBRATING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS: The Trafalgar Uniting Church is hosting an ecumenical Lessons and Carols Service, featuring the Yallourn Madrigal Singers, next Sunday 14th December from 2.00 pm at Trafalgar UCA, Contingent St Trafalgar. Everyone is most welcome. Afternoon tea will follow the service.

CHRISTMAS MASS AT ANDREWS HOUSE: A Mass for Christmas will be celebrated with the residents at Andrews House on Tuesday, Dec 23rd at 11:00am. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

ADVENT COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION: The invitation to this gathering for a Service of Reconciliation has been extended by St Kieran's parish to any and all of our parishioners who might like to celebrate the sacrament before Christmas.

Advent Reconciliation: on Tuesday, Dec 16th at 7:00pm at St Kieran's Church, Moe.

All parishioners are most welcome to take the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament together with the community at St Kieran's.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING ON ABC TV The ABC has announced a range of special programming to celebrate the Christmas season.

Key Broadcasts:

Sunday 21/12 @ 11:30am: **Songs Of Praise:**

Carols For Christmas Eve.

Tuesday 23/12 @ 7:30pm **The Piano UK: at Christmas**

Thursday 25/12 @ 5:00pm

Royal Carols: Together at Christmas

Thursday 25/12 @ 7.30pm

The King's Christmas Message 2025

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

St John's: 6pm Christmas Eve;

St Jarlath's: 9:00pm Christmas Eve

St John's: 9:30am Christmas Day

Please pass the word about Christmas Mass times.

Personally invite people to 'come home' for Christmas Mass, maybe even bring them with you.

FINANCE REPORT: Last weekend: Planned Giving: \$1595.00 (includes November direct credits; House Collection: \$595.50. Thanks to all our generous benefactors. If there's anyone who'd like to join the planned giving program, either through taking a set of planned giving envelopes; or automatic credit card giving, please take an enrolment card from the back of the churches, or contact Julianne at the parish office.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH: December Roster:

Cleaning: Hank and Gail Altar Linen: Ann

Special thanks from of us all to those who care so generously for our beautiful churches and properties.

LITURGY ROSTER: GREETER/COMMENTATOR:

7.12 T Jean Y Elisabeth

14.12 T Lucy Y Lyn

21.12 T Judith Y Gina

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

7.12 T Judith Y Mick

14.12 T Taryn Y Karen

21.12 T Jean Y Genevieve

Anyone else happy to be on the roster, share the load? Let us know. There's room! We would be so happy to hear from you!!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

FIRST READING: (Isaiah 11:1-10)

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: from Ps 71

Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING: (Romans 15:4-9)

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with

each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.
The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: (Matthew 3:1-12)

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he

said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Scripture Readings taken from the Roman Missal Lectionary 1981. Used with permission