

**50** 1968-2018 Golden Jubilee

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 DECEMBER 2018 YEAR C

## 'We are a child safe Parish'



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS	RESPONSE	ACCLAMATION
<p><b>1st Reading:</b> Baruch 5:1-9</p> <p><b>2nd Reading:</b> Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11</p> <p><b>Gospel:</b> Luke 3:1-6</p>	<p>To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.</p>	<p>Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!</p>

### COMING OF JESUS: A CAUSE FOR JOY AND HOPE

Advent is a time of waiting for Christ, allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts by repentance and for renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings (advents) of Christ into our lives. Besides his first coming at his birth, Jesus comes to our lives through the Sacraments (especially the Eucharist), through the Word of God, through the worshipping community, at the moment of our death and, finally, in his Second Coming to judge the world.

The Church begins the Advent season of liturgical year C by presenting the second coming of Christ in glory, in order to give us a vision of our future glory in heaven and to show us the preparation needed for it. She reminds us that we are accountable for our lives before Christ the Judge.

Today's readings invite us to assess our lives during Advent and to make the necessary alterations in the light of the approaching Christmas celebration. It is a call to "look up" to see that Christ is still here. We must raise our heads in hope and anticipation, knowing that the Lord is coming again. Luke reminds us to trust in Jesus, amid the tragedies that sometimes occur in our daily lives. Our marriage may break up; we may lose our job, discover that we have cancer or some terminal illness, or become estranged from our children. In all such situations, when we feel overwhelmed by disaster and feel that our lives have no meaning, Jesus says: "Stand up, raise your heads, because your salvation is near".

*Excerpt from Gospel reflection by Fr Tony Kadavil available at <http://frtonyshomilies.com>. Image by [www.bibletruthonline.com](http://www.bibletruthonline.com)*



### WHAT AM I EXPERIENCING IN MY LIFE, AS ADVENT BEGINS?

Many of us are in an ideal place to begin Advent, but we don't know it. It can be tempting to think that, because we are struggling these days, we can't enter into Advent without a big change in our mood or without distancing ourselves from our real experience. Nothing could be further from the truth. Advent is about letting God come to us. We do the letting and God does the coming. And, the whole mystery of our faith is that God is not reluctant to come into an unusual relationship (like Mary and Joseph's) or to be born in the poverty of a makeshift stable. We are tempted to prepare for Advent by cleaning everything up first – by, in effect, saving ourselves first. Our opening to Advent is to realize we need saving and to accept the saving love of our God.

So, what are we experiencing? Are we the people "who walk in darkness" or have "thick clouds" over us? Is the way before us full of valleys and hills? Does it seem like we are in a desert? Are there wild beasts out there who are ready to devour us? Have we been guilty of some things we aren't proud of? Have we lost touch with who we really want to be? Has our fidelity become a bit shabby? Isaiah proclaims that our God is ready to come and save us. And, none of the things that I see as barriers even matter to God.

If we haven't prepared our hearts to be open to

asking for salvation, we'll never shout, beg, plead, "Come, Lord, Jesus!" Our work is to become who we are. Advent is a humble season, a season of self-awareness. To say it another way, before we decorate our homes for Christmas, we have to clear away some of the false masks we might wear.

*Source: Taken from Praying Advent, on Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.*



**H O P E**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Lord, our God,  
we praise You  
for Your Son,  
Jesus Christ, for  
He is Emmanuel, the  
Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches  
and guides us. He is the Saviour of us all.  
O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we  
light the first (purple) candle of this wreath. May  
the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's  
promise of salvation. May He come quickly and  
not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bruno Warnke, Godefrida Wolfs, Maree Murphy, Angela Coyne.

**SICK:** Mary Edmonds, Marta Kristan, Geoff Bell, Peter Lisle, Margaret Ratcliffe, Margaret McLean, Matthew MacDonald, Nigel Goggin, Wendy Markby, Angelita Augustine, Pam Burke, Lola Jones, Maureen Vennix



### AUSTRALIANS BACK RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LAWS

A clear majority of Australians has backed new laws to prevent individuals, schools and companies from being discriminated against because of their religious beliefs and practices, according to a new poll. The Newspoll comes as the federal Government weighs up its response to a review into religious freedom conducted by former Liberal attorney-general Philip Ruddock.

It shows 59 per cent of the 1717 voters surveyed were in favour of new laws to protect individuals, schools and companies because of their religious beliefs compared with 26 per cent opposed to change. About two-thirds or 65 per cent of Coalition voters supported a strengthening of protections for religious freedoms; 57 per cent of Labor voters also backed the need for more robust protections.

Greens voters also overwhelmingly backed new laws to protect religious freedoms, with 63 per cent saying they were in favour of change compared with 50 per cent of One Nation voters.

Full report at [www.cathnews.com](http://www.cathnews.com)

### POPE SINGLES OUT THREE THREATS TO FREEDOM

In a video message for participants in the four-day Festival of the Social Doctrine of the Church in the Italian city of Verona, Pope Francis invites Christians to work together to overcome obstacles to freedom, reflecting on the challenges presented by extreme poverty, technological domination and consumerism.

The Holy Father said the event's theme, "The risk of freedom", invites reflection on what has always underpinned the experience of men, women, societies, and civilisations. "As Christians," he noted, "we are called to be attentive and vigilant so that the 'risk of freedom' does not lose its highest and most demanding meaning." Full report at [www.cathnews.com](http://www.cathnews.com)

### FEASTS OF THE WEEK

3 December - St Francis Xavier  
7 December - St Ambrose  
8 December - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Mass at 9am



### MELBOURNE OVERSEAS APPEAL 2018

**9 December**

We will have a special collection in all Masses next weekend in support of the Melbourne Overseas Appeal. Please be generous.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT

What a perfect gift for Christmas than a Holy Bible for only \$10/each.

*"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"*

### WORKING BEE

Saturday, 15 December, 9am-12pm

Please help us in beautifying the Church and its surroundings as we prepare for the Christmas celebration.

- More hands make less work
- Bring your own tools
- Morning tea, drinks and light lunch will be provided



### VOLUNTEER BBQ NIGHT

This Sunday 2 December at 6pm  
**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL!**

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH PREPARATION TO PLENARY COUNCIL 2020



### What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

Please note of the three workshops we have scheduled. Attend one of them:

- Wednesday 6 February at 9:30 AM
- Wednesday 20 February at 6:00 PM
- Sunday 24 February at 11:00 AM

**Hear what those attended the workshop has to say.**

"The Plenary Council asks us to recognise Jesus on our Faith road journey. It asks us to tell our stories. This is what has been happening at the Plenary Council meetings here at OLOL. The people who have attended, have enjoyed the positive discussions at the meetings. I have been reminded how much my personal faith means. "The bread for the journey" as the prayer says, is us, the community. Come and enjoy this unique time in our Church when we next meet.

~ Jan Webster

"Not really knowing what to expect, I truly found the opportunity most thought provoking in terms of discussing the possible future direction of the Catholic Church in Australia. Please give yourself the time to participate in 2019, you will not be disappointed.

~ Phil Lynch

### CHURCH BACKS PRIEST BANNED FROM PUBLIC MINISTRY

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli has vowed to support a priest stood down from public ministry in two inner-city parishes over alleged failure to comply with child safety laws. He has revealed Ormond and Murrumbeena parish priest Fr Paul Newton will continue in his official role as parish priest, but has been ordered "not to undertake any public ministry at this time."

In a letter to parishioners and parents, Archbishop Comensoli also confirmed the Church was not planning further civil action against Fr Newton. "I reiterate ... the importance of ensuring the process was fair and respectful, and that all voices, including Fr Paul's, could be heard and considered."

Full report at [www.cathnews.com](http://www.cathnews.com)

### HELMET OF SALVATION

A Joyful \*toon by Mike Waters



(BLUB) HEY! I'M DROWNING OVER HERE! (GLUB) AND YOU'RE BREATHING EASY! (BLUB) HOW?!

THIS HELMET PROTECTS ME FROM THE SURROUNDING PRESSURE AND GIVES ME A SUPPLY OF AIR FROM ABOVE! AND THERE'S ONE FOR YOU, TOO!

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:8 NIV