

Sunday
13th December 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
Year B

Readings: Sunday 13 December 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
Second Reading: Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-29

Readings: Sunday 20 December 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-29



Our new parish website is
[**www.altonacatholic.org.au**](http://www.altonacatholic.org.au)

. Important Notice:

Parishioners will no longer need to register by phone for weekday Masses. However it will still be necessary to ring the parish mobile (**0434 088 900**) and book **by 4pm** on Friday for the Saturday Vigil Mass and by **4pm** on Saturday for the 8.30am & 10.30am Masses. **Please make sure you specify which Mass you wish to attend.** You will need to register your full name and phone number when you attend Mass. We are able to register 50 parishioners for each Mass at this stage.

Parish Finances during the Coronavirus Pandemic:

While many of us are unable to gather for Mass, and prayers, you are invited to consider ways of supporting your local Church. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone. **If you are able to continue supporting financially please go to our new website www.altonacatholic.org.au and use one of the three options available ie CDF Electronic Transfer; Direct Debit or Bank Transfer.** Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

The Parish Finance Team

Latest news from the Archdiocese of Melbourne regarding Covid-19 Restrictions (Update #23) can be viewed on our parish website www.altonacatholic.org.au under the heading 'Covid 19 Restrictions'.



Christmas Mass times 2020

Taking into consideration the latest COVID regulations (and aware of the density limitations of our Church) our arrangements for this year will be:

December 24:

Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am; 6pm & 9pm;

December 25: Mass at 9.30am

December 26: No morning Mass
Mass at 6pm

December 27: Mass at 8.30am
Mass at 10.30am

Please note: No Mass on any Tuesday between Christmas Day and the end of January 2021.

All bookings for our Christmas Masses are made via our mobile phone number: **0434 088 900**.

Bookings for December 24 & 25 will open at Noon on Sunday, December 20 and then close at Noon on Wednesday, December 23.

Bookings for December 26 & 27 open at 9am on Saturday December 26.

Please leave a message - which includes your name, your telephone number, the number of people who wish to attend from your own household, and the Mass date and time you wish to attend.

As numbers are restricted because of the current COVID regulations, I will only ring you back if I am unable to offer you a place at your requested time.

Now, we all need to be patient with one another as, together, we navigate these unusual Christmas arrangements.

Archpriest Michael Kalka PP

Come Lord Jesus - Praying together in Advent as we wait for God to make all things new.
Wednesday 16 December, 2020, 7-7.30pm
at Mary Help of Christians Parish, Altona.

Leading Strings of Love - Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days. Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ. Retreat begins 3rd January, 2021 and goes for 40-days.

For more information go to the following link on the Sisters of Jamberoo Abbey website:

www.jamberooabbey.org.au - click on **Retreats** The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.

Surviving Christmas 2020 "Addressing the challenges and changes faced during Christmas 2020". Hosted by Joseph's Corner Christmas can be overwhelming on the best of years. Family politics, logistics of holiday planning, the stress of gift shopping... but as we leave lockdown and enter "COVID normal", this year we are faced with a new set of changes and challenges on top of the pre-existing ones.

This workshop aims to provide you with space to discuss the things that are concerning YOU as Christmas approaches - be that having mixed feelings about socializing again, worries about addressing potential conflicts, or experiencing feelings of exclusion and loneliness, to name a few. We aim to provide a space to safely address YOUR concerns, and work towards forming effective strategies to address them where appropriate.

Join us between 10am and 3pm (including 1hr lunch break and 2x tea breaks) to explore some traditional and creative therapy strategies that may assist in easing the worries of Christmas 2020. **Venue:** 13 Bellin Street, Laverton 3028. This course will be offered via Zoom. The link will be provided through emailed the day before. **RSVP** to 9315 2680 or 0411 475 358. contact@josephscorner.org.au

When: Wednesday 16 December. **Time:** 10am to 3pm This course will be run with the support of a grant from the Hobson's Bay City Council.

Would parishioners please ensure that cash is not placed in the street, brick letterbox. If you wish to leave an offering in an envelope containing cash please use the slot on the left-hand side of the front security door screen. Thank you.

Recently Deceased:

Salvu DeBono

Anniversaries:

Remedios Obias Llagas; Annunziata Maria Crawford; Raffaele Petronio; Frank Losoncz

Prayers Offered For:

Charles Azzopardi; Tony Tanti; Louis & Maria Pisani; Rita & Tony Caruana

Thanksgiving Envelopes for the next quarter are available for collection from the Narthex this weekend. Please take some time to collect yours and perhaps deliver to your neighbours or anyone you know who may not be attending Mass during Covid. Sincere thanks for your contributions to date.

Melbourne overseas Missions Annual Appeal - 12 & 13 December 2020

Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has provided in clean water, health, education and improved living standards to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating. Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information or to donate.

Volunteer Opportunity Assisting Refugee Students

Mercy Connect Melbourne – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week during school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding at the end of January. Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact). Website: www.mercyworks.org.au Mercy Connect Melbourne. Tel: 9326 1895.



Our Parish Prayer

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.

Through her prayers and under her protection,
may the light of Christ shine over our land.

May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.

Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.

Bless especially those who care for the poor and who seek to promote
justice and peace for all who call Australia home.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

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