

**Sunday  
11 December, 2022**

**Third Sunday of  
Advent**

**Year A**



**Readings: Sunday, 11 December, 2022**

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading: St James 5:7-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

**Readings: Sunday, 18 December, 2022**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

**Parish website:**  
[www.altonacatholic.org.au](http://www.altonacatholic.org.au)

**Sarnelli House Orphanage, Thailand – The Australian born nurse (on staff) will be home in Sydney for a January holiday.** Through her we can send money to the orphanage in a very simple and safe way. If you would like to make a donation to support the orphans, please place your offering in an envelope marked “Sarnelli House”. Place it in the collection basket, or hand it to the Parish Office, or to me **by the 2nd of January please.**  
*Archpriest Michael*

**Prayer Service at Port Phillip Village:** Port Phillip Retirement Village has an ecumenical Prayer Service on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. The next Prayer Service is on the **13th of December.** Friends and family are welcome.




**Carols in the Park 2022:** On **Sunday, 11th of December at 6 p.m.** there will be singing, music, dance and drama at GH Ransom Reserve, Esplanade, Altona. This is a free, family friendly event organised by Altona/Laverton Council of Churches and all are welcome. In case of wet weather, the Carols will be held at Hobsons Bay Salvation Army, 108 Queen Street, Altona.

**The four themes of Advent:** There are four themes corresponding to each week of Advent, beginning with the Sundays.

**Third Sunday of Advent: Joy**

When promises are fulfilled, when a long-awaited hope has been met, there is only one reasonable response: joy. When the Magi from the East saw the star above the place where Jesus was, Matthew says, ‘they rejoiced with very great joy’ before prostrating themselves in worship (2:10). The shepherds likewise ‘went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told’ (Luke 2:20). The third week of Advent is an opportunity to experience the ‘very great joy’ of knowing Jesus.

**Christmas Rosters:** If you are able to help us celebrate Christmas in any of the roles listed on the roster on the wall in the Narthex (adjacent to the kitchen), **PLEASE print your name and phone number in the appropriate column by Sunday, 11th of December.** We hope to have rosters finalised and available in the Narthex and printed in the bulletin by the weekend of the 17th and 18th of December.

	<b>Christmas Timetable 2022</b>	
<b>Monday 19 December</b>	<b>Individual Confession in Maltese &amp; English</b>	<b>4 - 5 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday 20 December</b>	<b>Mass followed by Individual Confession</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday 21 December</b>	<b>Mass followed by Individual Confession</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.  5 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday 22 December</b>	<b>Mass followed by Individual Confession</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday 23 December</b>	<b>Mass followed by Individual Confession</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.  5 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday 24 December</b>	<b>No Morning Mass or Confession</b>	<b>6 p.m. 9.30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday 25 December</b>	<b>Christmas Day Mass</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday 26 December</b>	<b>No Public Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday 27 December</b>	<b>No Public Mass</b>	
<b>Wednesday 28 December &amp; Onwards</b>	<b>Usual Parish Timetable</b>	

## Liturgy Roster - 17 & 18 December, 2022

	Lectors	Special Ministers
6.00pm	Stephanie Arquesa	Natasha Misquitta
8.30am	Asimita Banda	Mark Nicholls
10.30am	Clara Abate	Brian Misquitta
Linen Prep. (December)	Counting this week Team 2: 11.12.22	Counting next week Team 3: 18.12.22
Mary Dimech	Leticia Mauricio Raquel Arquesa Conee Manguiat Emmanuel Mifsud	Joe Gerada Shaun Crosbie Margaret Bond

**Thanksgiving Envelopes for the next quarter are available for collection from the Narthex this weekend.** Please take some time to collect yours and perhaps collect and deliver to your neighbours or anyone you know who may not be attending Mass. We greatly appreciate your help in this regard. Lucy and Grace.

**The next Mass for Anointing of the Sick will be on Friday, 3rd of February, 2023 at 9.15 a.m.**

Thank You! Your support of this year's **Appeal for World Mission Sunday** enables Church workers in 1047 mission dioceses to offer Good News to their local communities. **Thank you for contributing to the amount of \$1,407.00 which was raised by St Mary's community for Catholic Mission.** Our partnership with local churches in over 160 countries is dependent upon the prayerful and financial support of many. Through your contribution, communities in Ethiopia look forward with hope to easier access to health, educational and spiritual resources. **THANK YOU!**

*"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8)*

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are then able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

## Recently Deceased:

Nora Matthews; Fiona Pace; Sr Margaret Anne Bromhead rsj

## Anniversaries and Remembrances:

Charlie Vella; Fr Jim English; Mary Micallef; Charles Micallef; The Sammut Family

**You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts - In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad:** Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist and harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger. **At Home:** Palms' Neighbours Without Borders Program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council. Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or call (02) 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

**COME LORD JESUS – Praying together in Advent as we wait for God to make all things new:**

**Wednesday evenings for half an hour (7.00 – 7.30 p.m.):**

**14 December:** Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 97 Railway Street North, Altona

**21 December:** St Eanswythe's Anglican Church, corner Queen & Bent Streets, Altona

*An initiative of the Altona/Laverton Council of Churches*

*Enquiries: 9398 1005 or*

[chris.lancaster@anglicanaltlav.org.au](mailto:chris.lancaster@anglicanaltlav.org.au)


**Choir –** Anyone who wishes to sing in the choir at the 9.30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve is asked to attend a practice in the church on Saturday, 17th of December at 2 p.m.

*How good God is to me and how much reason I have to be grateful.*


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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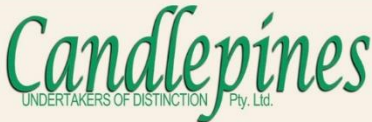
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