



PARA HILLS MODBURY CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH TEAM

FR MANU KUMBIDIYAMACKAL
MSFS

(PARISH PRIEST)

TASH SOUTER
(PASTORAL ASSOCIATE)

SINDI KINLOCH
(PARISH ASSISTANT)

PAULINE LAI
(FINANCE OFFICER)

PARISH ADMIN OFFICE

50 RESERVOIR RD,
HOPE VALLEY 5090
PH: 8264 7590 OR 8264 7093

EMAIL:

office@paramodcath.com.au
bulletin@paramodcath.com.au

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY-FRIDAY: 9AM-2PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

171 KESTERS ROAD,
PARA HILLS 5096

ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH

50 RESERVOIR RD,
HOPE VALLEY 5090

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY
CELEBRATED AT
10AM MASS**

BAPTISMS

BOOKINGS TO BE MADE
THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE.

MARRIAGES

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S
(PRIMARY) 8251 9500
CARIGNANE ST,
WYNN VALE 5127**

**GLEESON COLLEGE
(SECONDARY) 8282 6600
40-60 SURREY FARM DRIVE,
GOLDEN GROVE 5125**

PARISH CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS

THERESE MEYERS: 0421 533 761
ANGELA ZAKARIAS:
0401 205 636

5th December 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C - Violet

Bulletin Vol.18
Issue 46

**We acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of this region.
Let us share and learn together for reconciliation and justice.**

MASS TIMES

**ST JOHN XXIII
Hope Valley**

Monday 9.15am
Tuesday 9.15am
Thursday 9.15am
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8am



**HOLY TRINITY
Para Hills**

Wednesday 7pm
Friday 9.15am
(Adoration Before Mass
commencing 8.30am)
Saturday 9.15am
Sunday 10am

**Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday after 9.15am Mass at Holy Trinity
and 5.30pm at St John XXIII**

**Everyone attending Mass is required to provide their full name and
a contact phone number or email address for the purpose of contact tracing.
COVID-SAFE check in using a QR code is encouraged.**

**Due to current regulations masks covering both the mouth and nose
are required to be worn at all Masses.**

**Please keep yourselves updated on the latest health advice
as regulations can change rapidly.**



Volunteers Weekend

*As we celebrate Volunteers weekend
it is with heartfelt gratitude that
we wish to thank each and every
one of you who not only graciously
give of your valuable time, but also,
by your attention to detail, help in making our Parish
a welcoming, enjoyable and prayerful experience
for all who attend our Masses.
Our Parish wouldn't be the same without you!*





The Voice in the Wilderness: Prepare the Way

Almost 600 years before the coming of Christ, the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, and people were carried off as exiles to Babylon. Baruch was one of the prophets who wrote to encourage the people not to give up hope. The day would come when God would bring His people home. This was the word of God that had come into the mind and heart of the prophet Baruch. This very same word of God came again 600 years later to John the Baptist when Rome governed the land of Israel and Herod was a puppet king. John, the last of the great prophets before Jesus, preached a repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Both Baruch and John prepared the way of the Lord.

The second and the third Sundays in Advent centre on John the Baptist, reminding us that if we want to prepare properly for the coming of Jesus we need to listen to the Baptizer's message. Following the style of ancient historians, Luke dates the appearance of John according to the ruling powers. He begins by setting the emergence of John against the secular context of the Roman Empire. Against this background John the Baptist, as he prepared the way for Jesus, proclaimed the coming of God's Kingdom and preached a "baptism" to symbolize the interior repentance that leads to forgiveness. Fulfilling the prophetic words of Isaiah, John the Baptist's preaching assisted in ensuring that in the lives of everyone who was baptized, "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth" (Lk 3:5). Isaiah was referring to mountains of pride and arrogance and valleys of discouragement and despair. As with Baruch, John presents an image of the mountains and valleys being made flat and smooth as a sign of Israel's repentance and moral transformation. The quotation which John's work fulfils is taken from Isaiah 40:3-5, where the prophet was calling the people to prepare for the Lord's visitation. If a king were planning to travel, work-crews would be dispatched to repair the roads. Ideally, the roads for the king's journey would be straight, level, and smooth. John considered himself as the messenger of the king. But the preparation on which John insisted was a preparation of heart and of life. "The king is coming," he said in effect. "Mend, not your roads, but your lives."

John called people to repent as a way of preparing their hearts and lives for the Lord's visit. He is calling

Cont....

us, too, to get ready for something so great that it fills our hearts with expectation. The most important goal for us is to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord. By emphasizing the last line of the quotation "All flesh will see the salvation of God," Luke stresses the universal aspect of God's salvation. Having begun the section with a list of rulers who did not bring wholeness or salvation, Luke ends with the expectation of a true Lord Who can bring these about. The place where John did his preaching is very symbolic. The Jordan River was the place that represented the eastern border of the Promised Land, separating it from the desert, where the Jews had wandered aimlessly for 40 years after centuries of slavery in Egypt. By preaching his message there, John was inviting the Jews of his day to come out of the bondage of slavery, to leave their faults, their wandering and their sinful lives behind, and to enter into the Promised Land full of God's blessings. Advent, like Lent, is a season given to us so that we may repent of our sins and be reconciled with God and His Church by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Listening to the message of the gospel today we need to prepare the way for the Messiah in our hearts. This can happen only when we repent and seek forgiveness from God and our fellow-human beings. John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We have to turn away from them in sincere repentance in order to receive God's forgiveness. William Bausch offers some suggestions as to how we might accommodate the message of John in our lives: "Make friends with someone you're at odds with. Pick up the phone and talk to somebody you haven't talked to in months or years. Be the first to hold out the hand of reconciliation even though it gets slapped or rejected. Don't turn your head at shady dealings. Be willing to put some of your possessions on the line. Tithe, not out of your excess, but out of your substance. Add up the amounts you have set aside for your Christmas spending, and then slice off 10 percent and give it to the poor. Give evidence that you mean to repent." Sally Koch reminds us that great opportunities to help others seldom come but small ones surround us every day. It takes only a minute to be kind, but the prophet reminds us the end result can remain forever and a day.

Janellumbidramakol

The Blessing of the Cribs

Do you have a Nativity Scene?

If you would like to have your crib blessed please bring it along to Mass Saturday Night, 11th December and Sunday Morning 12th December. All families are warmly invited!



RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

HQ: 1300 729 202 from 9.00am — 1.00pm
or www.vinnies.org.au



**St Vincent de Paul
Modbury Conference**

Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you!

The weekend of Dec 11/12th is the last to return your card and donated item to the Giving Tree.

We pack the hampers on Friday 17th for collection on the Saturday morning.

The requests for Christmas hampers currently stands at 20, but is expected to grow in the next week – we'll draw the line at about 30, but take requests until December 13th.

The collection of the St Francis Xavier Christmas Appeal will take place on December 8th and should boost our stocks for the hampers and home visits.

We'll collect our allocation of toys and gifts arising from the MRA Toy Run on the 15th.

After the hamper activity we suspend assistance calls until after Australia Day.

Your support has enabled us to respond to over 170 calls for assistance this year.

If you're still able to contribute Sugar (1kg) and Margarine are needed in the pantry



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 8th December 7pm at Holy Trinity

There will be an HOUR OF GRACE from 12 noon to 1pm at Holy Trinity Church, Para Hills

Our Blessed Mother has asked us to spend one hour with her to pray for Priests, her beloved Sons.

Many graces will be poured out on those who would attend this Holy Hour

“ O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.”

THANK YOU

Sophie Ozga would like to thank everyone for their kind support and prayers during her husband Henry's recent illness and passing.

Please continue to keep Sophie and her family in your prayers during this time.

Readings for next Sunday, 5th December 2021

1st Reading	Zep	3:14 - 18
2nd Reading	Phil	4:4 - 7
Gospel	Lk	3:10 - 18

Saints/Feast Days Of the Week

6th Dec	St Nicholas
7th Dec	St Ambrose
8th Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9th Dec	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin
11th Dec	St Damasus I

Our Community's Prayer Petitions

PLEASE NOTE: THE NAMES ON THE SICK LIST WILL REMAIN FOR TWO MONTHS ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST: Please note that names can only be added to this list by immediate family, or the ill person themselves (for reasons of privacy).

**Please Remember in your Prayers
THOSE WHO ARE SICK, especially:**

Anne Hughes, David Truman, Paul Barry, Bruce Tilley, Allan Searle, Anne Valentine, Ken Randell, Mary Rose Probst, Molly Holmes, Maria Trotta, Joan Walmsley, Ursula Moore, Lil Buckley, Jason Mittiga, Pat Collins, Ruby Brokensha, Anne Van Der Arend, Margaret Pitt, Patricia Kopf, Darcy Ridley, Jayden Lee, Father Peter Milburn, Maria Hand, Emma Gammon, Asher Caudle, David North, Elijah Neri, Wayne Collins, Marg Dolman, Sean Molloy, Antoinette Pascale, Charlotte Fussell, Reta Lockyer, John MacGrath, Ken Robinson, Mary Redmond, Graham Speed, Marlen Piineda, Rosa Maria Santos, Betty Roper, Imperia De Ionno, Julie Reimann, Gerry Canavan, Kay Kennedy, Marie Boulton, Gary Lockyer, Yvonne Summers, Rita Robinson, Sr. Marleen Dewar OLSH, Emelia Pudelek

Recently Deceased

Darryl McManus, Abraham Karuthedathu, Henry Ozga

BULLETIN NOTICES

The very last Bulletin for 2021 will be published on Wednesday 22nd December

If you have any notices to be included in this final Bulletin for the year please send them in by **3pm Tuesday 14th December**

Thank you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

PRAYER MEETINGS

Tue 7th Dec Legion of Mary 12.30pm Holy Trinity

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Wed 8th Dec Seniors Social Group 1pm Holy Trinity
Thur 9th Dec St Vincent de Paul 4pm St John XXIII
Sat 11 Dec Treasure Market 8am - 12noon St John XXIII



DEVELOPMENT FUND 2021

Congratulations to our winner
No 57, Trish Taylor
Drawn by Sheila Cooper

If you would like to be included in the draw
Please contact: Barbara Mathews 8258 8806

WORKING BEES TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

Holy Trinity

Saturday 11th December 10am - 12noon

St John XXIII

Saturday 18th December 9am - 12noon
Our aim is to do a general clean up of both
Mass Centres and to wash the windows
in preparation for the Christmas Liturgies.
Morning tea will be provided.

Many hands make light work

CHURCH FLOWERS

There will be no flowers during the Season of Advent.
All donations will go towards the
Christmas arrangements.

JOY OF THE GOSPEL: DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR 2022

Joy of the Gospel Reflection Books
have arrived
and are on sale at a cost of \$12 each.

These books are very popular
and sell out quickly.

If you would like a copy
please contact the Parish Office

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TREASURE MARKET

Second Saturday of each month
8am to 12noon

Next: 11th December 2021
St John XXIII Centre

Sellers \$10—Buyers free!

PLEASE SEND SMALLER GOODS OUR WAY,
THEY CAN BE LEFT ON THE SHELVES IN THE
MARKET WALKWAY

OR IN THE BOX AT THE BACK OF ST JOHN XXIII
CHURCH, ALSO IN A BOX IN THE CRY ROOM
AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

All monies raised from the Market
are donated to the Parish.

WE CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT LARGE ITEMS
SUCH AS TVs, MATTRESSES, SOFAS,
LOUNGE CHAIRS & WARDROBES
AS WE ARE NOT ABLE TO SELL THEM.

COVID SAFE REQUIREMENTS WILL APPLY



May the God of truth and love
make you eager to share
your gifts with others.



May God who has shown his justice to the nations
make you tireless messengers in his service.
May God who has shown you his salvation
guide you swiftly to the inheritance
he has promised. Amen



We welcome to our community,
those families who are preparing for
their children's baptism during December.



Please show your support by making them
feel welcome and remembering them in your prayers.

We also welcome with joy,
Keira Sanders & Winifred Little
who were baptised in November.

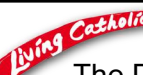
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER BABIES

5th Dec Delice Regan
7th Dec Patricia Collins
10th Dec Rosalind Lucy Bell
11th Dec Katrina Lineage



Christmas Liturgies

As Christmas is fast approaching
the Liturgy Committee have outlined the list of
duties required at our Christmas Masses.
If you are kindly available to volunteer in anyway
at all, please add your name to the list.



THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The December edition of The Southern Cross
is available from both Mass Centres
and the Parish Office at a cost of \$2
or online at www.thesoutherncross.org.au