

Our Lady Help of Christians

Member of the Diamond Valley Deanery

PARISH BULLETIN



Sunday, 7 Dec 2014: Second Sunday of Advent—Year B

<p>Parish Vision Statement A loving parish, centred in Christ, that is welcoming, inclusive and connected, and relevant to the needs of our world.</p>	<p>Today's Readings First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11 In the desert make ready the way of the Lord. Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8 Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14 The Lord shows great patience. Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6 Gospel Mk 1:1-8 John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the Messiah.</p>	<p>Next Week's Readings First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11 Isaiah pro- claims the goodness of the Lord. Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10 Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24 Rejoice and pray always. Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18) Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28 The priests and Le- vites question John's identity.</p>
<p>Parish Information Parish: 4 Henry Street, Eltham House: P.O. Box 310, Eltham Phone: 9439 9206 Fax: 9431 3755</p> <p>Liturgy Schedule</p> <p><u>Weekend Masses</u> Saturday 6.00pm Sunday 9.00am, 11.00am</p> <p><u>Masses</u> Tues - Fri 9.15am</p> <p><u>Reconciliation</u> Saturday 9:30am</p> <p>Parish Team Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Burke Parish Worker - Gina Ang (Tues, Wed & Thurs 9.00am - 3.30pm) Parish Secretary: Angela Vines - (Mon & Wed 9.00am-3.30pm) Vicki Jordan - (Fri 9.00am-3.30pm)</p> <p>email: olhc@alphalink.com.au web site: www.olhc.info</p> <p>School Team School Principal: Chris Ray School Secretary: Liz Cox R.E.C.: Marguerite Jones School: 1-13 Henry Street. Eltham Phone: 9439 7824 email: school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au Website: olhceltham.catholic.edu.au</p> <p>Diamond Valley Deanery email: drcdvd@optusnet.com.au website: diamondvalleydeanery.org.au</p>	<p>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. Amen.</p> <p>APOSTLES CREED We 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; on the third day he rose 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. We 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. Amen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>A dvent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BE WATCHFUL - BE ALERT</p> <hr/> <p>RESPONSORIAL PSALM Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.</p> <p>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION <i>Alleluia, Alleluia</i> Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. <i>Alleluia</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“God’s word, listened to and celebrated, above all in the Eucharist, nourishes and inwardly strengthens Christians, enabling them to offer an authentic witness to the Gospel in daily life.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Para 178 Evangelii Gaudium</i></p> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p>We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.</p> <p>We also remember those who are sick and in need of care.</p> </div> <p>Recent Deaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Butler

ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS LITURGES

Please sign up for the Christmas liturgies by this weekend - sheets are on the gathering area table.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

- Monday 7.30pm: The Rosary
- Tuesday 10.00am: Advent Gospel discussion/reflection

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 a year of Consecrated Life, starting on the First Sunday of Advent, and ending on 2 February 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of *Perfecta Caritatis*, a decree on Religious Life, and *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council's constitution on the Church. The purpose of the Year, as stated by the Vatican, is to 'make a grateful remembrance of the recent past' while embracing 'the future with hope'.

'It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord. Religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men **and women able to wake the world up.'** *Antonio Spadapro, Conversation with Pope Francis, 2014.*

Let us pray for many young people willing to leave everything to follow the Lord. Let us pray for new witnesses of faith to awaken the world to the presence of Christ.

MALAWI GROUP NEWS

Christmas raffle - tickets will be on sale this weekend. You can be assured of lovely prizes once again - \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT OLHC SCHOOL

On this Thursday, 11 December at 7.00pm, we are invited to **O.L.H.C. school's carols session.** The Sisters of Charity will be present as they provided Principals and teachers for nearly twenty years - 1971-1989. Also, they're celebrating 175 years in Australia. They will be presenting the school with a plaque to mark the occasion.

VOLUNTEER CATECHIST

We are looking for catechist for our GSA (Government School Apostolate).

No experience is required as we are happy to train you.

If you are interested in volunteering for an hour for 8-10 Sundays during the 2nd term of 2015, please contact Gina at Gina.Ang@cam.org.au or 9439 9206 (Tue-Thu, 9am-3.30pm) or Fr Kevin.

ST VINNIES GIVING TREE



It's that time again when we think about those less fortunate than us. If you are able, please take a card off the giving tree in the gathering area and replace it with the gift mentioned on the card by next Sunday 14th December. Gift cards are acceptable as long as they are placed securely in an envelope.

READERS—please collect your new copy of "Break Open the Word", arranged in alphabetical order of surname, from the gathering area table.

CHRISTMAS CARDS DELIVERY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

One of our parishes' annual traditions is to deliver Christmas cards (with images created by our school children) to our neighbours alerting them to the true meaning of Christmas and our Mass times. If you can help out by delivering some cards in your area, please sign up at the map distribution table after Mass next weekend.

CHRISTMAS MARIAN
Please forward articles for the
Christmas Marian to Vicki
(vkjordan@gmail.com) by December 12

COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

There will be a collection next weekend for Melbourne **Overseas Mission.** Archbishop Hart reminds us that, 'Last year, MOM distributed funds and goods to the value of \$735,000 to communities including those in Papua New Guinea, Peru, Botswana, Sierra Leone, Jerusalem and many more of the smaller Pacific countries. MOM has helped transform the lives of people in remote areas, where the poor are often forgotten by their own governments.

The generosity of the Melbourne parishioners has provided both children and adults with opportunities for education and essential healthcare, often during a humanitarian crisis. In recent months, MOM has supported former Coburg resident, Sr Ann Stevens with funds to fight the spread of the Ebola virus in Sierra Leone. Children orphaned by the death of their **parents are being helped to survive the world's deadliest** outbreak of this virus. Sister Ann, a Cluny sister, is a qualified doctor and has been working in Sierra Leone for many years, often with the financial support of MOM.

Through its network of missionaries and friends in countries throughout the world, MOM has continued to embrace opportunities to change the lives of those who struggle to **survive harsh living conditions and extreme poverty.'**

ST VINNIES PIETY STALL

Christmas cards and Columban calendars are available at the St Vinnies Piety Stall - open after Mass.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Bishop Robert Rabbat, Bishop of Melkite Eparchy, has sought the solidarity of prayer and support of Roman Catholics for a National Day of Prayer on 7 December for the Christian faithful and other minorities who have and continue to suffer persecution, exile from their land and unspeakable atrocities. We are invited to be aware of the issues confronting the ancient Churches of the Middle East and other minority groups and to encourage awareness of the crisis which is devastating the lives of so many.

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. We beseech You to guide all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace.

Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put aside mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom.

Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honour and praise. Amen.

St Ephraim the Syrian

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR

Colin Leahy has agreed to coordinate those parishioners who generously offer their services of hospitality after 9.00am and 11.00am masses. Colin will keep an eye on supplies of tea, coffee, milk, sugar, biscuits, etc. Angela will continue to do the roster. If you have any comments or suggestions you can speak to Colin or Fr Kevin.

We congratulate parishioner Vicki Ward for being elected as **the local member for Eltham in last Saturday's election.** Vicki and her family in in our parish and her two daughters attend O.L.H.C. Parish school as did Vicki.



This weekend we welcome to our parish community
Krystal Rose Sasha Farrell
 daughter of
 Michelle & Kevin Farrell
 who celebrate the sacrament of baptism
 this Sunday.

MARCELLIN COLLEGE YEAR 7 2016 ENROLMENTS
 Applications for Year 7 2016 and beyond are now open. It is the responsibility of each family to submit an application form, including families who currently have sons enrolled at Marcellin. Applications will not be submitted by the primary school. The closing date for Year 7 2016 applications is Friday 27 February 2015. A Parent Information Evening for Year 7 in 2016 will be held on Tuesday 17 February at 7.00pm. Contact the College Registrar on 9851 1589 to obtain an Enrolment Application Form or visit www.marcellin.vic.edu.au

THANK YOU FROM THE CARING GROUP

Our Caring Group's lunch was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. We would like to thank everyone who helped: parishioners, teachers and staff from the school as well as students and parents. The food was fantastic, the children's singing was delightful, the 'waiters' were engaging and every volunteer showed the true living of our parish vision.

You have put a smile on the faces of those who attended!

... AND FROM ELTHAM RETIREMENT CENTRE

After Wednesday's Healing Mass and delicious three course lunch, Tricia Fitzpatrick, pastoral carer at Eltham Retirement Centre, sent us a 'thank you' card for the Caring Group and the five people who take communion to their residents every Wednesday.

CAMPION CENTRE OF IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY
 Campion College Kew continues to offer top class programs and courses:

- Monday 26 Jan - Friday 30 Jan (9am - 5pm)
God's unconditional love and the healing of shame
- Saturday 31 Jan (9.30am - 4pm)
 Gratitude as a spiritual pathway
- Sunday 15 Feb (1am - 3pm) *come as our guest
 Campion Open Day *bookings essential

More information on noticeboard.

CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

Anyone interested in reading and discussing Catholic books and poetry is welcome to join our monthly meetings.

In December we are discussing 'The Hound and the Falcon: The Story of Reconversion to the Catholic Faith' by Antonia White (1965).

When: Friday 12 December, 7pm

Where: Caroline Chisholm Library, Level 3, 358 Lonsdale St.

Contact: Paul Nixon pwn@anthonycooperandco.com.au or 040 548 531

JCMA PRESENTS THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF HANUKKAH
 Come along and join the Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia (JCMA) Women's Committee in learning about the Jewish festival of Hannukkah from our host Rabbani Tzlp Boroda. Afternoon tea provided.

When: Thursday 11 December, 2pm-4pm

Where: Kew Hebrew Congregation, 53 Walpole St, Kew

Cost: \$10

Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/113716>

RSVP: Ginette Everest womenconference@jcma.org.au or 9287 5590

LIBRARY NEWS - December

Books of month have been chosen as a reminder we are approaching 'fire season'. These are not religious books but provide witness to the resilience of the human spirit.



Spirit of the Spine by Vin Mehes: a photographic record of North Eastern Victoria's fires and the people who survived them.

Footsteps in the Ash by Jim Usher [Jayne Britton's father] & Mac Gudgeon is concerned with the immediate areas of St Andrews and Strathewen.

Be Inspired,
 Trish

CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER WEEK

Do you have a Year 11 or 12 student who doesn't know what to do when they've finished school? Maybe a GAP year, a

Diploma in the Liberal Arts (1 year) or a Degree in the Liberal Arts (3 years) is the perfect choice before restricting yourself to one career path. The Campion College Summer Week gives interested students the opportunity to live college life at Campion for five days and nights before making any long term tertiary decisions. Each morning participants sample Campion subjects in Literature, History, Theology, Philosophy, Science, Maths and Latin. This is followed by various activities including a beach trip, sport, bush walking, trivia and ballroom dancing.

When: Sunday 11 January to Friday 16 January 2015

Cost: \$490

Contact: info@campion.edu.au or 02 9896 9300

More info: www.campion.edu.au

REST, PRAY AND RECREATE WEEKEND

The Pallotti retreat team invites you to a great opportunity to come away and enjoy the awesome beauty of the Yarra Valley. Simply relax, unwind and replenish your spirit. The weekend is informal with time available for spiritual conversations and communal prayer.

When: Friday 6 February to Sunday 8 February

Where: Pallotti College, McNamara's Rd, Millgrove

Cost: \$170 (includes all meals and refreshments)

Contact: Denis Nichols on 0427 449 434

More info: www.pallotticollege.com.au

GOSPEL REFLECTION



During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments: tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

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PARISH SCHEDULE

Baptisms

On 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 12:15pm.
6 weeks notice required. Baptism preparation held last Saturday of the month at 10:00am.
On the 4th Sunday of each month Baptism candidates are welcomed during Mass.

ST. Vincent de Paul Piety Stall Open During W/end Masses - Donations for next week:

Breakfast cereals, biscuits, cake mixes, spreads—jams, honey, peanut butter, vegemite, sugar, tea, coffee, etc.

Altar Society

December 13/14 B. Morganti, L. Dunell
December 20/21 G. Milwain, V. Hall, A. Rough

Counters

December 7 G. Price, E. Millar, J. Callahan
December 14 P. Reardon, P. Rigg

Pilgrim Rosary Statue

December 7 Donahoo Family
December 14 Dhanasen Family

Caring Group Co-Ordinators

Jayne Britton 9431 2667
Barbara Bibby 9439 8594

Sunday Morning Tea

December 7	9.00am	B. & D. Morganti
	11.00am	K. & A. Conte
December 14	9.00am	M. Scali
	11.00am	L. & N. Smith

Diary Dates

Meditation: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 5.30pm;
Wednesday: 6.30pm - All welcome
Stations of the Cross: Friday: 8.45am
Adoration: First Friday of the month 7-8pm

December 2014

Mon Dec 8	Rosary 7.30pm
Tues Dec 9	Advent gospel reflection 10.00am
Thurs Dec 11	School carols 7.00pm
Mon Dec 15	Rosary 7.30pm
Tues Dec 16	Advent gospel reflection 10.00am Graduation Mass 7.00pm
Wed Dec 17	Reconciliation Liturgy 7.30pm
Thurs Dec 18	End of School Year Mass 9.15am
Mon Dec 22	Rosary 7.30pm

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon Dec 8	Immaculate Conception
Sat Dec 13	St Lucy

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

<i>Mass: 5.30pm</i>	<i>Carols: 5.00pm</i>
<i>Mass: 8.00pm</i>	<i>Carols: 7.30pm</i>

CHRISTMAS DAY

<i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>Carols: 11.30pm (Christmas eve)</i>
<i>Mass: 9.00am</i>	<i>Carols: 8.30am</i>

No 11.00am Mass on Christmas Day

(Continued from page 3)

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest **thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings** – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover. So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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LITURGY ROSTER

	COMMENTATOR	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
December 6/7 - Second Sunday of Advent			
6.00pm	D. Scannell	K. Nolan	V. Jordan, M. Scannell, D. Scannell
9.00am	G. Scully	M. Dopheide	H. Scully, M. Scali, D. Donellan, T. Scott, 1 volunteers
11.00am	volunteer	W. Zavadil	M. Goss, G. Northrop, S. Northrop, 2 volunteers
December 13/14 - Third Sunday of Advent			
6.00pm	volunteer	B. Gillard	J. Gaspersz, K. Gaspersz, N. Gazpersz
9.00am	J. Bylsma	T. Taylor	M. Dopheide, M. Snipe, P. Shea, 2 volunteers
11.00am	L. Dunell	J. O'Dell	K. Reardon, L. Dunell, M. Goss, 2 volunteers