

Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish

C/- 7 Mann Street, Mount Barker
South Australia 5251



We are a Community learning to be disciples of Jesus.

Second Sunday of Advent - 9 December 2018

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**Our Lady of Mercy
Mt Barker**

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6.00 PM
SUNDAY MORNING 9.00 AM**

**The Good Shepherd
Strathalbyn**

SUNDAY MORNING 10.45 AM

Weekday Masses This Week

Tue 11/12		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Wed 12/12		12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 13/12		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 13/12		11.00am	Oakfield Lodge
Fri 14/12	St John of the Cross	12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 14/12	St John of the Cross	7.00pm	St James the Less
Sat 15/12		9.30am	The Good Shepherd

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Mass on Thursday and Saturday mornings for half an hour.

Reconciliation will be available during and after Exposition, or by appointment.

Advent a time to make peace in the soul, family, neighbourhood

Pope Francis is urging Christians to prepare themselves for Christmas this Advent season by being humble and trying to build peace in their soul, in their family and in the world. In his homily on Friday morning, he said that peacemaking consists in not talking evil of and harming others. Pointing to the pastoral scene evoked by Isaiah in the first reading, where the wolf and the lamb, and the leopard and the kid live side by side harmlessly, the Pope said the prophet speaks about the peace of Jesus that transforms life and history, which is why He is called the "Prince of Peace". Advent, therefore, is the time to prepare ourselves for this Prince of Peace by being at peace with ourselves, our soul, that is often in anxiety, anguish and without hope.

Today the Lord asks us whether our soul is at peace? If not, then we should ask the Prince of Peace to pacify our souls, so we can meet Him. We are so used looking at the souls of others rather than our own. After being at peace with our soul, it is time to be at peace at home, in the family. He then spoke about making peace in the world where there is much war, disunity, hatred and exploitation. Christians should ask themselves what they are doing about creating peace in the world by working for peace in the neighbourhood, in the school and in the workplace. The Pope urged Christians to ask themselves whether they find excuses to make war, to hate, to talk ill about others and condemn or are they meek and try to build bridges.



Children too can ask themselves whether at school they bully a companion they dislike because he is a little hateful or weak, or they make peace and forgive everything. Whenever there is the possibility of a "small war" at home, in the heart, at school or at work, we should stop short and try and make peace. "Never, never wound the other. Never," he said, exhorting Christians to start by not speaking ill of others or firing the first cannon. This way, he said, we become men and women of peace, carrying peace forward.

The Parish Team:

Fr. Richard Morris PP	8391 1053	Website: www.barkerstrathcatholic.com	
Fr. Ian Wilson, Assisting Priest		Email Address: mbstparish@adam.com.au	
Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary (Wed/Fri)	8391 1053	Our Lady's Rosary Garden	8391 1471
Sue Eckert, Ministry Coordinator, Strathalbyn	8537 3053	St Francis de Sales College	
Fr. Richard's email address:	morrisri@bigpond.com	Gavin McGlaughlin - Principal	8393 1000

Please Pray For...

Sick

Win Mott, Ashlee Lloyd, Bill Weir, Patricia Jones, Helen Meijer, Rose Carr, Susie White, Ingrid Szandro, Peter Szandro, Alida van Dijk, Rina Papini, Pauline Hoskin, Noelene Kane, Leanne Sersli, Tanya Jane Vallejo, Geraldine Griffin, Margaret Nykiel, Rosalie Archer, Brian Hockings, Helen Malian.

Recently Deceased

Marjorie Jean Post, Gerald Cobiac.

Anniversaries

Graham Pyne, Bruce Martin (Jock) Rogan, Vic Keane, Matthew Bourne, Bernie Cooke, Leo Bagshaw, Danilo Zotti, Terry Reygersberg, Kenny Smeath.

Vocations

Olek Stirrat, Anthony Beltrame.

Parish Pastoral Council

Neil McGoran (Chair), Fr Richard Morris (Ex Officio), Gavin McLaughlin (Ex Officio), Sandra Lloyd, Mike Galea, Yesamma Hendry, Jo Manalo, Navin DeSilva, Jan Sobotta, Andrew Wajwoda, Catherine Wajwoda, Gerrard Doyle.

Parish Finance Council

Tom Hardy (Chair), Michelle Muller (Secretary), Fr Richard, Noel Duffield, Jim Mann, John Barton, Hilary Raimondo, Denis Roberts.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests)	\$ 934.60
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 1,018.00
Loose plate	\$ 482.10

Parish Meetings this Week

Mon 9.45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Mon 10am	Level 1 Atrium	St James the Less
Tue 11.30am	Prayer Group & Lunch	The Rosary Garden
Tue 7.30pm	Parish Finance Council	Parish Office
Tue 7.30pm	Choir Practice	Our Lady of Mercy
Wed 1.15pm	Legion of Mary	The Rosary Garden
Wed 4.00pm	Level 2 Atrium	St James the Less
Wed 7.00pm	Knights of the SC	OLOM Foyer

On the Noticeboard

Dec 11 Preparing for Christmas: Fr Maurice Shinnick
Dec 21 Kids Fun Day @ Our Lady of Mercy Church foyer
Jan 27 World Youth Day @ Sacred Heart College
And much, much more - check your Church noticeboard!

Ecumenical Prayer at Strathalbyn

Come, join in, and help begin what God wants to do here.

Sunday 9 December at the Lutheran Church.



Reflection on the Scripture Readings

Last Sunday, the liturgy invited us to see Advent as a time of preparation for the Saviour's birth, the dawn of salvation. Today we take up this theme again, in the gospel reading from Luke. John the Baptist is a prominent figure in the liturgies of Advent. After a long period in which the voice of the prophets was not heard, the Lord's Precursor – praised by Jesus as 'more than a prophet' (Mt 11:9) – made his appearance. Luke's introducing of John is dramatic and skilful. Situating John's heralding in the midst of the real world's history, he names contemporaries who foreshadow the tragic conflict that is soon to be enacted – Pilate who will authorize Christ's death, the petty rulers of the nation under occupation, the high priests whose hostility seals the fate of Jesus. But the gloom of this introduction gives way immediately to the vision of hope and promise that inspired John's mission. The Baptist – remembered as a man of the desert – is presented as inaugurating a new Exodus for God's people, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah.



Because the first Exodus from Egypt was the defining moment in the destiny of the Chosen People, it is not surprising that old Israel sometimes looked forward to the final fulfilment of God's promises as a kind of new Exodus. Our first reading, from the prophet Baruch, takes up this theme – making part of today's liturgy, not only because it echoes the words of Isaiah, describing the making of a way through mountains and valleys 'so that Israel may walk in safety', but also because its message of hope is admirably suited to the mood of our Advent liturgies. Looking back on the return from the Babylonian captivity as a second Exodus, the prophet looks forward to God's final intervention on behalf of his people as a last great Exodus. It is an outstanding example of the boundless hopes of those among the Chosen People who were faithful to their Jewish faith, looking forward to the coming of the messiah, in the last years of Old Testament times. When God remembers his promises, and Jerusalem's children are reassembled, they will discard their mourning garments and 'put on the beauty of the glory of God forever'; God will make them a sign for 'every nation under heaven'; God will give them a new name, 'Peace through integrity'. We are challenged in this time of renewal, to match this remarkable faith and hope. Last week, we saw how – as 'the Son of Man' foretold in the prophecy of Daniel – Jesus presented himself as the fulfilment of Israel's boundless hopes. In today's second reading, from Paul's letter to the Philippians, we see how this truth has become part of the faith of the first Christian Church. One of the principal themes of the prophets of old Israel, as they warned a wayward people to amend their ways, was the 'Day of the Lord', when all must face the judgment of God. Paul now takes up this old theme – but for him it is 'the Day of Christ Jesus', when the Saviour will return as Son of Man to be our Judge. Though it is a season of hope and joy, Advent is also a time in which we are called to a deeper conversion.

John Thornhill SM

Question of the Week

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins ... And he preached saying, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit'. (Mark 1: 4, 7-8)

Adults: With whom could you be more patient this week, as God has been patient with you?

Young People: How can I be more like John the Baptist at school, at home, or at work?

Children: Whom can you be more patient with?

Christmas Kids Fun Day

Hey kids, what are you doing these school holidays? Join us on Friday December 21st for a Kids Fun Day. We are going to make baskets of goodies for nursing home residents who need some Christmas cheer. It will be loads of fun and also a great way to care for others in our community.

When: 10am – 2.45pm, 21st December 2018.

Where: In the foyer of Our Lady of Mercy Church, Mount Barker.

Who can come: all primary school kids aged 5-10 years old and youth leaders 11+.

Cost: \$10 (\$15 per family) including lunch and snacks.

Registration forms available from your Church foyer.

Please return all forms with payment by Friday 14th December.

KIDS
Fun
Day

Christmas Leaflets

A beautiful Christmas leaflet has been made available for us to give out as a way of inviting others to celebrate Mass with us this festive season. You might like to take some home to give to family, friends or neighbours. You can find them in your Church foyer.

Spring Clean in Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday 16th December will be our day for spring cleaning the Church in readiness for the Christmas Masses. If you are not on the cleaning roster, why not pencil this date into your diary and come along to help? It's a great way to join with the community and get to know others. If you have a long extendable cobweb broom, please bring it along. We are planning to clean after the 9am Mass.

Christmas Hampers at Strathalbyn

Christmas hampers are being prepared for local people in the Strathalbyn end of the Parish. Parishioners are asked to bring some 'in date' staple foods to Church by the end of the week to add to the collection that can be shared out. Please put them in the basket in the back of The Good Shepherd church. Cash donations can be passed on to Patricia or Sue.

Choir Practice

Choir practice to prepare for the Christmas Eve 6pm Mass will be held on Tuesday December 11th and 18th at 7.30pm in Our Lady of Mercy Church. New members are welcome. Pat Knappstein.

Children's Liturgy Awards

It's nearly time for our end-of-year Children's Liturgy Awards. Any child who would like to hand in a folder of their Children's Liturgy worksheets, Kids' Bulletins or other work by Sunday December 16th will have their work reviewed and will receive a prize!

Please place your folder in the box provided in your Church Foyer (Our Lady of Mercy or The Good Shepherd) and don't forget to include your name so that we can return it to you with your award.

Prizes will be awarded after Masses on the weekend of 22-23 December. Keep up the good work!

Christmas Cards and Calendars

Columban calendars are now available at The Good Shepherd and Our Lady of Mercy churches for \$7.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards are available at Our Lady of Mercy church and at the Strathalbyn Christian Bookshop. \$5 per pack of 10 lovely cards.

Knights of the Southern Cross Raffle

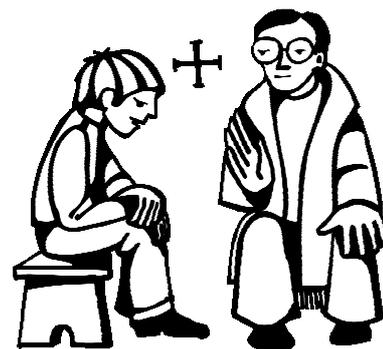
This year's Christmas Raffle by the Knights of the Southern Cross is a garden cart full of gifts! Proceeds from the raffle will go towards the Organ Fund and the Knights Community work. The bumper raffle will be drawn the week before Christmas. Andrew Wajwoda on behalf of the KOSC.

Reconciliation During Advent

Many of us take the opportunity during Advent to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

During the weeks of Advent the Sacrament will be offered on:

- Thursday 13th December at 10am at Our Lady of Mercy.
- Thursday 20th December at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Mercy. This will be the second form of the Rite where we gather together to prepare before individual confession.
- Saturday 22nd December at 10am at The Good Shepherd.
- Saturday 22nd December from 5.00pm at Our Lady of Mercy.
- Sunday December 23rd after Mass at The Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn.



We were assisted in our Liturgy by...

	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9am
Commentator	Maureen McLaren	Delia Hughes
Readers	Damien Lloyd	Stephen Handrick Andrew Baker
Eucharistic Ministers	Jenny McEvoy Sandra Lloyd	Anne Bagshaw Robert McNamara Theresia Jordans
Altar Servers	Mackenzie Cushnie-Stock and Aagie Kurian	
Musicians	Hilary Raimondo, Pat Knappstein, Olek Stirrat	

... and many wonderful people at Strathalbyn. :-)

Second Sunday of Advent

1ST READING (JB): BARUCH 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM: Ps 125

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R.**

2ND READING (JB): PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain

that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION: LUKE 3:4. 6

Sung antiphon

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Sung antiphon

GOSPEL (JB): LUKE 3:1- 6

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



December 16th, Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

What, then, must we do?

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18