

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 - 8 December 2019

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 10/12		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Wed 11/12		12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 12/12		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 12/12		11.00am	Oakfield Lodge
Fri 13/12	St Lucy	12noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 13/12	St Lucy	7.00pm	St James the Less
Sat 14/12	St John of the Cross	9.30am	The Good Shepherd

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass on Thursday and Saturday mornings for half an hour.
Reconciliation is available during and after Exposition, and by appointment.

The Lord waits for everyone, good or bad

During his homily at the morning Mass in Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis asked whether we are willing to accept God's invitation. Reflecting on a parable in Saint Luke's Gospel, Pope Francis stated that it both summarised the history of salvation and reflected the behaviour of many Christians.

The parable, in which a man offers to host a great feast only to have his invitations rejected with lame excuses, acts as a metaphor for Christ's offer of salvation. "The dinner, the feast, represents Heaven, eternity with the Lord", observed the Pope.

True feasts are freely given. "Our God always invites us this way", Pope Francis observed. "He doesn't make us pay an entrance fee." However, there are always those who, when offered this vast and lavish feast, refuse to accept the invitation. They close themselves to the gift of salvation because they feel contempt for the one who is inviting them.

All of us will face this temptation at various times during our lives. We will be asked to choose between pursuing our own self-interest or accepting God's invitation to His lavish feast. When the Lord said that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, He was referring to one type of person who closes himself to the possibility of salvation.

God wants all of us to attend His feast. Good or bad, rich or poor, beautiful or ugly makes not the slightest difference. Recalling the response of the father to the return of the prodigal son, the Pope commented that the behaviour of the father reflects God's attitude. "That's the way of the Lord", the Pope said. "He is lavishness."



The Parish Team:

Father Richard Morris PP

8391 1053

Father Ian Wilson, Assisting Priest

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary (Wed/Fri)

8391 1053

Sue Eckert, Ministry Coordinator, Strathalbyn

8537 3053

Father Richard's email address: morrisri@bigpond.com

Website: www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Email Address: mbstparish@adam.com.au

Our Lady's Rosary Garden

8391 1471

St Francis de Sales College

Gavin McGlaughlin - Principal

8393 1000

Please Pray For...

Sick

Ashlee Lloyd, Geraldine Griffin, Jannifer Green, Barry Dunn, Irma Bachmeyer, Doris Smith, Michael Porter, David Neville, Helene Meijer, Patricia Smyth.
Names are kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.

Recently Deceased

Brian Hockings, Mary Slattery (nee Eckert).

Anniversaries

Audrey Handie, Ruby Willett, Gerald Cobiac, Graham Pyne, Bruce Martin (Jock) Rogan, Vic Keane, Matthew Bourne, Bernie Cooke, Leo Bagshaw, Danilo Zotti, Terry Reygersber.

Anniversaries from Saturday to Friday.

Parish Pastoral Council

Neil McGoran (Chair), Fr Richard Morris (Ex Officio), Sonia Nelson (Ex Officio), Yesamma Hendry, Sandra Lloyd, Jo Manalo, Jan Sobotta, Joanna Falkland, Teena Cobiac, Mike Galea, Stewart Chilcott, Michelle Muller, Tung Pham.
Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.

Parish Finance Council

Tom Hardy (Chair), Father Richard Morris (ex officio), John Barton (Treasurer), Michelle Muller (Secretary), Jim Mann, Noel Duffield, Martin Kidby.

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests)	\$ 1,025.45
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 982.00
Loose plate	\$ 422.35
Direct debit	\$ 355.00
Total second collection	\$ 1,759.35

Direct debits can be arranged for our Planned Giving program: BSB 085 005 Account 48 973 6784.

Parish Meetings this Week

Mon 9.45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Mon 10am	Level 1 Atrium	St James the Less
Wed 12.30pm	Legion of Mary	Parish House
Wed 4.00pm	Levels 2 & 3 Atrium	St James the Less
Wed 7.00pm	Knights of the SC	OLOM Foyer
Thu 10.30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu 6.00pm	Youth Group	Location TBA

Ecumenical Prayer at Strathalbyn

Come, join in, and help begin what God wants to do here. Sunday 8 December at the Anglican Church.

On the Noticeboard

- Dec 23 Kids Fun Day: Gifts for residents of Sash Ferguson Eldercare
- Jan 22 *Unplanned* at Wallis Cinemas, Mount Barker - tickets can be purchased online or through the parish office.

Reflection on the Scripture Readings

Today's liturgy brings together readings from very different backgrounds, as it gives expression to the Advent message of hope.

The prophetic vision of Isaiah reflects his familiarity with the king's court in a period of dramatic developments in the region. He links the fulfillment of God's designs for the nation with the rule of a new David whose rule will contrast with that of many of David's unworthy successors. He will be filled with the gifts of the 'spirit of the Lord', ruling with wisdom and integrity, and showing himself a forthright champion of the poor and oppressed. The peace established by his rule is graphically portrayed as like a new paradise - as the whole country is 'filled with the knowledge of the Lord'



and lives according to God's ways. For those who know the blessings brought by the true 'Son of David', the themes of the Christmas celebration that awaits us at the end of our Advent preparation are not difficult to recognise.

The gospel reading from Matthew reminds us that our hope in the promises of God brings with it a challenge. John the Baptist was honoured by Jesus as the embodiment of the prophetic tradition of Israel. It has been pointed out that, in the cultural traditions of the world, there is no parallel to old Israel's acknowledgment of its failures before God. And it was the prophets who - like a conscience of the nation - challenged the people and their leaders with their unfaithfulness. Scholars tell us that Matthew's gospel - from which our readings for the coming year will come - was produced by an early Christian community in dispute with former Jewish associates who cannot accept the claims of Christian faith. This helps us to understand the sharp edge given to the words of Jesus against "the scribes and Pharisees" (see ch.23), and the strong words of the Baptist in today's gospel. Jesus was impatient with the complacent exclusivism of these groups. We know, from contemporary records, that they tended to believe that being "children of Abraham" assured them a sharing in God's promises. John too challenges this complacency: 'Do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father".' In the best prophet tradition, his language has a frightening intensity. The axe is already 'laid to the roots of the trees'; without their own 'good fruits' they will be lost.

Writing to the Romans, Paul has a similar message. Jewish converts must follow 'the example of Christ Jesus', in the tolerance and generosity they show, as they recognise in the Church's embracing of 'the pagans' what God foretold in the promises of 'the Scriptures'.

Our hope is boundless in its expectations; but we must play our part in the generous designs of God.

John Thornhill SM

Question of the Week

This is the one (John the Baptist) of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'. (Matthew 3: 3)

Adults: What do you need to change so that others can learn from watching you that Christ walks among us?

Young People: What can you change about yourself this Advent to make the world a brighter place?

Children: What could you do so that others will see in you what it means to follow Jesus?

Parish Christmas Raffle

There are now **SIX fabulous prizes** for our Christmas raffle!

First prize: Bed and breakfast for two in the Haus' spa suite.

Second prize: Original landscape painting by John Dynon

Third prize: Dozen wines

Fourth prize: Heart-shaped Swarovski lock and key pendants donated by Offe Jewellers

Fifth prize: Homemade Christmas cake

Sixth Prize: Handmade quilt

Proceeds go to parish gardening projects.

Tickets \$2 each, on sale after Mass.

Winners drawn after 9am Mass on Sunday 22nd December.

Haus
ACCOMMODATION



Kids Stuff

Kids Fun Day - Monday 23rd December 2019 - register now!

Join us on Monday, December 23rd for a Kid's Fun Day. We are going to make Christmas gifts for residents of Sash Ferguson Eldercare. It will be loads of fun and a great way to care for others in our community. Registration forms available at the back of the church - please return these ASAP in the folder provided or to Michelle at the office, or email mbstparish@adam.com.au.

Mini Youth Group (u12)

We are hoping to continue meeting during the school holidays. Dates, times and activities to be advised, but in the meantime, come along to Kids Fun Day! Michelle.

Youth Group (12+) Thursday 12th December

We are planning an outing to Latitude or Bounce as our end of year activity. Please RSVP to Ruby on 0499 172 740 if you would like to come along. Ruby.

Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)

Hearing and exploring the Gospel through the use of sensory-rich materials. Please see times on p2 of the bulletin. Teena.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sunday during 9am Mass, Mount Barker

We listen to the Gospel from the Children's Lectionary and reflect on how God is speaking to us.



Christmas Cards & Columban Calendars

There are still some Vinnies Christmas cards available for \$5 and Columban calendars for \$7. Please pay into the Vinnies slot in the OLOM foyer or in the jar at the Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn.



Movie Screening: *Unplanned*

Your only chance to see this movie!

Wallis Cinema Mount Barker is screening one session only of the movie: *Unplanned* on Wed 22nd January at 8.15pm.

Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. All Abby Johnson wanted was help women. She was one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the United States and counselled countless women about their reproductive choices. Until the day she saw something that changed everything. Tickets cost \$22. Rated M (mature audiences). TRAILER AND BOOKINGS:

fan-force.com/screenings/unplanned-wallis-cinemas-mt-barker/.

Please note: 61 tickets must be sold by 10th January to ensure the screening goes ahead. If it doesn't happen you will be refunded - no one loses out! To buy tickets, click on the bookings link above or register and pay in the church foyer and we will purchase your ticket for you. Family and friends welcome.

Choir practice this week

Choir practice for the Christmas Masses at Our Lady of Mercy will be on Tuesdays 10th and 17th of December at 7.30pm. All welcome.

OLM Church Cleaning - Sunday 15th Dec

Volunteers are needed for general Church cleaning at Our Lady of Mercy after Mass on Sunday, 15th December, in readiness for the Christmas Masses. It's a great way to join with the community and get to know others. We hope to see you there.

Parish Finance Council Report

The Parish Finance Council supports Fr Richard and our community by discussing and making recommendations about parish property, maintenance and finance matters. Items discussed this month:

- We planned the budget for 2020, which includes church heating and cooling and removal of an asbestos fence. We will provide a copy of the budget in the new year.
- We agreed to invite a representative of St Francis de Sales College to attend a future Finance Council meeting and discuss plans for the student's gardening project at the rear of Our Lady of Mercy.
- Projects to address roof leaks, leadlight repairs and toilets will commence soon.

Planned giving receipts have been printed for the last six months and are available in the church foyers, together with the new envelopes.

PS: Name badges have been ordered and will arrive soon...



Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING ISAIAH 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down
together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **R.**



SECOND READING ROMANS 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL 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 MATTHEW 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

December 15th, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A

*Are you the one who is to come,
or must we wait for someone else?*

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Psalm 145:6-10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10