



Encounter

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT -
YEAR A

*A living, vibrant
faith community*

Vol 11 : No 03

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

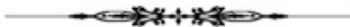
Our vision is to build a faith community, centred on the loving relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, expressed in personal lives and in communal Parish activities.

IT IS OUR MISSION TO:

- Endeavour to develop relevant and prayerful Eucharistic celebrations.
- Foster the experience of a personal relationship with God.
- Provide faith formation opportunities for parishioners.
- Care for each other and the environment, particularly the sick, lonely, aged and disabled within our Parish.
- Care for our environment towards a sustainable future.

WE WILL:

- Reach out to those in need in the local community.
- Be committed to Catholic Social Justice principles.
- Pray and work together with Christian Churches and all people of goodwill.
- Protect and engage with young people in our local area.
- Strengthen bonds with indigenous people in our region.



MASS TIMES

- **VICTOR HARBOR**
Weekend - Saturday 6.00pm;
Sunday 11.00am.
Weekdays - Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday 9.00am
- **GOOLWA**
Weekend - Sunday 9.00am.
Weekday - Wednesday 9.30am



FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts,

‘Courage! Do not be afraid.

‘Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:6-10

Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,

(Continued page 4)



Bulletin Board

SPECIAL INTENTIONS (These names will be removed after one month. To keep names on this list please contact Parish Office)

John Wallace, Claire Hamish, Bob Willis, Jeffery Family, Bailey Smallacombe, Ann Tee, Peter Harris, Josephine Proctor, Rita Sullivan, Charlie Nicolson, Paula Collinson, June Lloyd, Eileen McCoe, Len Peake, Ron & Patrine Harris, Vin Slattery, Neil Cumming, Clancy Retallick, Ann & Kevin Hannagan, Mollie Davis, Jutta Millar, Cath Howard, Keith Fawkner, Campbell Smallacombe, Brian Ferrari, Trudi McNamara, Elizabeth Nance, Allen Odgers

ANNIVERSARIES

Francesco Scriva,
Bub O'Shaughnessy

PARISH COLLECTION 3rd & 4th December

1st (Presbytery) \$1,057.35
2nd (Parish) \$1,160.10

VICTOR ALTAR ROSTER 16th & 23rd December

M. Farmer & C. Pearsons
30th December & 6th January
W. & J. Baker & M. Cunningham

VICTOR MORNING TEA 11th December

A. Williss & R. Reid
18th December
F. Hanna & M. Hatelty

VICTOR MEET & GREET December Saturday

M. Farmer & M. Tuckey

December Sunday
R. Reid, W. Baker

GOOLWA MEET & GREET

December
K. & A. Fawkner

MORNING TEA December

A. Turner, R. Austin, G. Kennedy,
J. Henderson

ST JOHN'S MUSIC GROUP

Practice time 2pm Wednesday

Call Claire Williams 0429 008 199

THE HOLY FATHER'S 2022



PRAYER INTENTIONS

DECEMBER: For Volunteer not-for profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations, committed to human development, find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

ST JOAN'S MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS

will hold their next meeting on Wednesday 14th December from 9.30 - 10.30am followed by morning tea. All welcome.



PPC MEETING 23rd November, Victor.



Pastoral Council

We welcomed new members
Jane Andersson,
Mary Libutan and

Patrick White from Victor community joining Sharon Duong who is in mid-term of her service and Jan Henderson joining Vivi Scriva, Sue McCarthy, and Paul Kennelly from the Goolwa community. We thank Geoff Chalmers, Rosemary Mulraney, John Dunthorne and David Taggart, Mark Leaney and John Baker for their services to our Parish Pastoral Council over the past few years and know they will still assist in the parish whenever possible.

The meeting had a quick look at some issues that needed attention and then we were treated to a lovely finger food supper with thanks to Fr. Vinh and Pat Clingan for arranging it. Paul Kennelly will again be Chair for the group, with Ray Klecko as Vice Chair. Sharon Duong will kindly act as Minute Secretary.

The next PPC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19th at 4.00 pm at Victor.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine this weekend.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:

Final date

Please place non-perishable items in the Christmas boxes in both churches until Sunday 11th December. Thank you!



Vinnies Christmas Hampers:

Can you help (St Joan's Annex)?

• Tuesday 13th Dec. 9.30a.m: Unpack donated food

• Thursday 15th Dec. 9.30a.m:

○ Pack hampers

Delivery drivers required

No need to RSVP. Thank you for your time!

Victoria House and Immanuel Care:

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts to spread the joy of Christmas to residents at Victoria House and other Community Housing in our area.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2022



Fr Vinh is opening his home for those who are eating Christmas lunch alone this year. Wines are provided. BYO drinks. Just phone or text him on 0429 098 802 or send an email to

vinh2511@bigpond.com. After that Father will arrange with you about what to bring. No gifts please.

BISHOP GAUCI SPEAKS UP FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Bishop Gauci said Northern Territory Attorney-General made comments in Parliament that **religious schools would still have the ability to expect school leaders – principals, deputy principals and religious education coordinators – “to be active members of our Church family” and that people working in Catholic schools “respect the Catholic ethos”.**



“I want to try to ensure that these statements made in good faith in Parliament will become part of legislation in the future.”

Bishop Charles said while he would have “preferred more clarity”, he feels “quietly confident that **the future of our schools will continue to be ensured as authentic Catholic schools**”. CathNews

Bulletin Board



RESPONSORIAL PSALM THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT, YR. A

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is He who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

KNIGHTS OF SOUTHERN CROSS REPORT

December: Congratulations to Steve Muller on winning first prize in the end of year 45 club draw and Bernie Hallion for being runner up. The wine raffle has been filled (18 sold at Goolwa 17 at V. H) and will be drawn at the 9am Mass at Goolwa.

Thank you to all who came to our Christmas function last Sunday, with the best attendance we have had. To chef Tony and the "salad ladies" a huge thank you for the great meals served. We are sure all enjoyed themselves, and again thanks to all for your support to the Knights during the year.

A big thank you is in order to the Victor people who very kindly donated \$700 to our order from the Melbourne Cup profits, showing our parish Mass centres are truly working as one parish. We will certainly use the money to support a worthy cause, even before Christmas if possible.

In December we remember our past secretary treasurer Phil Burns whose anniversary occurs this month. Phil was also heavily involved in the Knights at state level.

We are having a break now until February, and wish all in the parish a happy and Holy Christmas, and if travelling a safe time on our roads

THANK YOU to our Goolwa gardeners who do a mighty job keeping our large grounds up to scratch and tidy.

MESSAGE FROM SANDY AND ROBERT LEE. They miss our Sunday Mass community. They wish all a very Merry Christmas, and will be back from the USA in early January.

CHRISTMAS LETTERS OUTREACH
Each Christmas through our Christmas letters we reach out to those who no longer worship with us but are still part of our parish. The letters are now ready to collect and distribute.

Choose an area on the map. Then select a packet of envelopes with the area highlighted with yellow colour. Thank you for helping with this important Christmas outreach.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES
Congratulations to the organisers and helpers at our two Christmas Parties. Once again these proved happy occasions and a chance for our two communities to get together.

THIS WEEK 10th & 11th December

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm
Commentator: J. Ryan

R.1 B. Bullen
R.2 J. Jeffery
E.M. M. Farmer

Sunday 11.00am

Commentator: T. Hounslow

R. 1 P. O'Brien
R. 2 A. Willis
E.M. M. Taylor

GOOLWA 9.00am

Commentator: D. Huppatz

R. 1 C. May
R. 2 E. Bourne
E.M. A. Turner



THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT JOY

The third candle is pink and symbolises joy.



It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is

pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is "Gaudete Sunday" or "Rejoice Sunday" and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

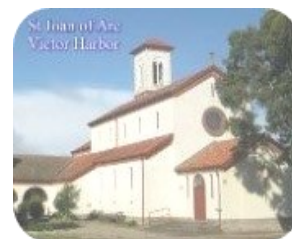
CONGRATULATIONS TO ROSE AND PAUL MULRANEY

who celebrate their 50th
Wedding Anniversary
next Friday,
16th December.



VISIT FROM COMORO DEACONS!!

On Saturday 26th November
Mark Leaney represented our parish by attending the ordination to the diaconate of Brother Lidio Marques and Brother Filipe Sarmiento at St Joseph's Church, Collingwood, Victoria. **The brothers are from our Sister Parish in Comoro and plans are afoot to have them visit our parish early in the New Year.**



NEXT WEEK 17th & 18th December

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm
Commentator: E. O'Shaughnessy

R.1 B. Bullen
R.2 C. Huppatz
E.M. J. Jeffery

Sunday 11.00am

Commentator: P. O'Brien

R. 1 L. Sunman
R. 2 T. Hounslow
E.M. P. Clingan

GOOLWA 9.00am

Commentator: Marie Riddle

R. 1 J. Ryan
R. 2 Michael Riddle
E.M. M. Ryan

COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 REGULATIONS

(Current from 08/12/22)

- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please follow the SA Health instructions in regard to isolating and other government health protocols. Stay home and do not attend church services until you have fully recovered.
- The density requirement has been updated to full capacity in all churches and also includes funerals and weddings.
- Wearing of face-masks in Church is recommended. (Show you care and wear a mask.)
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are requested to stay home and not attend services.
- Hand sanitiser is available at church entrances.
- Communion is given only in hands. Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Holy Water is not available at the doors of churches.

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH HOUSE

32 Seaview Road (PO Box 464)
VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211
Telephone: 8552 1084 (*Please leave a message if the Office is unattended - we will get back to you asap*)
Email: catholicvhg@bigpond.com
Web: www.victorgoolwacatholic.org.au

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

- **PARISH PRIEST**
Fr Vinh-Quang Tran (8552 1084; in an emergency - 0429 098 802)
Email: Vinh2511@bigpond.com
- **PARISH MANAGERS**
Mr Ray Klecko (0438 364 870)
Mrs Pat Clingan (0410 593 617)
Email: Parish_manager@bigpond.com
- **PARISH NEWSLETTER**
Please forward items for the newsletter to the Parish Office - ph 8552 1084 or catholicvhg@bigpond.com (*All items for the newsletter by Wednesday evening*)
- **PARISH TREASURER**
Mr Merv Mallett (0412 103 443)
Email: parish_treasure@bigpond.com
- **CHILD PROTECTION**
Child Protection Unit (8210 8159)
Goolwa (Cathy May 0401 584 237)
Victor Harbor (Parish Office 8552 1084)

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and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor;

and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No?

Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

A QUESTION OF FAITH

"Are you the one who is to come?" is among the most fascinating questions in the New Testament. First, it is the question on the minds of anyone who encounters Jesus (then and now). A simple yes or no would suffice, but in typical Jesus fashion the answer is rich, layered, and challenging. We all are looking for a Messiah, but is one who cures and comforts outcasts the person we had in mind? Basically, Jesus' message to John is: "Here are the facts. It is for you to decide".

Second, what is so amazing about John's question is the level of trust it implies. John was confident Jesus would tell him the truth. In fact, John already knew the truth. If he hadn't been convinced Jesus was the Messiah, he would not have posed the question.

When you find yourself in doubt who Jesus is, first think about Jesus' answer to John: Is the one who brings good news to the poor, helps the blind see, and deaf hear the saviour you had in mind? If not, then perhaps you're on the wrong path – or more probably

unaware of your own needs. Second think about John's question. If you are asking Jesus whether or not he is your saviour, chances are you already know the answer.

Friends of Jesus, go confidently from this place. We will question fearlessly. We will support one another consistently. We will go forward carefully. We will meet trouble compassionately. We will meet injustice creatively. We will meet the apathetic with a challenge. You are the friends of Jesus, and your eyes are wide open as you walk his way. *GPBS eNews*

EXPLORING THE WORD

As we have already noted, one of the main purposes of Matthew's Gospel is to reveal Jesus as the long awaited Messiah of the Jews to Matthew's largely Jewish community. In this text, Matthew cites the evidence that is before their eyes. Why is it necessary for John to question the identity of Jesus when his own eyes and ears will give him the answer he seeks? The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and good news is proclaimed to the poor! Such were the signs of the coming of the Lord that Isaiah had prophesied. Such are the actions that Jesus undertakes! His identity is clear for all who have the eyes to see it.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(12 - 18 December)

- **Monday, 12:** Mon 3rd week, Advent (Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27)
- **Tuesday, 13:** St Lucy (Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32)
- **Wednesday, 14:** St John of the Cross, (Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Lk 7:19-23)
- **Thursday, 15:** Thur 3rd week, Advent (Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30)
- **Friday, 16:** Fri 3rd week, Advent (Is 56:1-3, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36:)
- **Saturday, 17:** Sat 3rd week, Advent (Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17)
- **Sunday 18:** 4th Sunday of Advent (Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24)

PASTORAL CARE

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8552 1084 or in an emergency 0429 098 802.