



Encounter

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH

**SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT - YEAR C**

*A living, vibrant
faith community*

Vol 13 : No 02

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

OUR VISION:

To build a faith community centred on the loving relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, expressed in personal lives and communal parish activities.

OUR MISSION IS TO:

- Develop relevant and prayerful Eucharistic celebrations
- Foster the experience of a personal relationship with God
- Provide Faith Formation opportunities
- Care for each other particularly the sick, lonely, aged and disabled
- Witness to God's love for our earthly common home and all its creatures that abound

WE WILL:

- Reach out to those in need
- Be committed to Catholic Social Justice principles
- Pray and work together with Christian Churches and all people of goodwill
- Engage with young people
- Care for our environment towards a sustainable future
- Strengthen bonds with First Nation peoples

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

RECONCILIATION

St Joan's, Victor Harbor - Saturday
11am - 11.30am, or by appointment.



Second Sunday of
Advent

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125

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

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

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

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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, Jeffery Family, Natalie Millar, Ann Tee, Bailey Smallacombe, Charlie Nicolson, Jane Lloyd, Eileen McCoey, Len Peake, Neil Cumming, Mollie Davis, David Lee, Evelyn Liston, Ann Hannagan, Allen Odgers, Rose Munro, Geoff Munro, Andrew Nichols, John Slagter, William Ash, Eloise Ash, Gavin Schumacher, Jim Ryan, Leonie Hassan, Fr Vinh Tran, John Tregeagle, Greg Hope, Mairead Cummings, Maire Ryan, John McAuliffe, Meg Klecko, Stephen Vernon, Graham Blacket, Jo Andrews, Paul Fahey,

ANNIVERSARIES

Bub O'Shaughnessy, Frank Scriva.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Bill Pick

PARISH COLLECTION Nov.30th & 1st Dec.

1st (Presbytery) \$1,166.85
2nd (Parish) \$1,289.65

Direct Debit Details :
BSB 085 005 A/C 489786431

VICTOR MORNING TEA December 8th

A. Temme & M. Chalmers
December 15th
E. Dabinett & F. Hanna

VICTOR MEET & GREET December Saturdays

M. Farmer & M. Tuckey
December Sundays
R. Reid & F. Harris

GOOLWA MEET & GREET December : C. Rivers

MORNING TEA

A. Turner, S.& R. Lee

ST JOHN'S MUSIC GROUP

Practice 3.00pm Wednesday.
Claire Williams 0429 008 199

VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:

2 weekends left to donate



You are invited to donate non-perishable food to support local families to celebrate Christmas. Families are

in need of support; and people are donating fewer items this year. If you are in a position to donate and haven't taken the opportunity, one item will make a difference! You probably have an item in your pantry that you could put in the Vinnies Christmas Hampers box! until 15th December.

Thank you for your generosity!

PACKING VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: Can you help?

ST JOAN'S

**Tuesday 17th December
9.30am (after Mass)**

Unpack donated food items.

**Thursday 19th December 9.30am
(after Mass)**

Pack hampers.

Delivery drivers required.



VICTORIA HOUSE/IMMANUEL CARE SUNDAY 8TH FINAL DAY TO BRING ALONG GIFTS

Please leave gifts in our Church porches in the box provided. Please do not wrap them.

VICTOR HARBOR COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

We are invited to the Newland Uniting Church on **Wednesday 11th December at 7.00pm** to enjoy **St Peter's Cathedral Choir** for an inspiring night of candles, carols and readings celebrating the Story of Christmas.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS

meet this Wednesday 11th at 9.30 at St Joan's with morning tea to follow.
ST JOAN'S PASTORAL CARE GROUP
meets next Saturday at 4.30 in the Annex.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

ENVELOPES will be handed out to parishioners this weekend. Any donation, however small, is appreciated, and **all donations go to our local needy people.** Please pop in 2nd collection bowls next week!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS ROSTERS FOR VICTOR HARBOR

Sheets are in the porch at Victor Harbor for Mass Ministries. Please place your name on the sheet if you are available to assist at these special celebrations.

THE ADVENT WREATH - FAITH



The second candle, also purple, represents faith.

It is sometimes called the "**Bethlehem Candle**" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Mary and Joseph would have been feeling apprehensive about the journey to Bethlehem in the midst of winter.

What was God thinking? Their faith would have been sorely tested.

Sometimes we wonder where God is in our own lives, in our world.

What are you doing Lord?

Where are you in all of this?

Lord increase our faith.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



It's been a very long and sometimes stressful year. We have had many celebrations at our two churches which were enjoyed and shared by all.

It's now time to take a well-deserved break and to recharge our batteries in preparation for another year.

The Encounter Team will be printing our last newsletter for this year on the weekend of 21st and 22nd December and returning on the weekend of 1st and 2nd February 2025. In the interim there

will be Encounter covers each week, front and back with the readings. Any important information will be read from the altar or emailed by Father Vinh.

We will still be doing the Commentators' Sheets but please check all your rosters.

Wishing you all a very safe, happy and healthy Christmas and a wonderful 2025.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to **Gael Maloney of Willunga Parish** who will continue to publish our readings pages each week in January and who has served our parish faithfully throughout the year. Thanks very much Gael.

CELEBRATIONS ALL ROUND!

Those able to attend had a double blessing last weekend, firstly on Friday evening with a wonderful, relaxed **St Joan's Social Club Christmas Dinner** with a first-class meal and festive decorations, followed on Sunday evening by the **Lutheran Combined Christmas Dinner** – very welcoming to Fr Vinh and the Catholics who went along, with shared food, quiz games and Christmas carols. Two different styles of celebration, both fantastic! Thanks to both organizations. *And as well:*

Many thanks from Table 3

(the Goolwa mob) to Pat, Colleen, Steve and all at the Victor Social Club for a truly great Christmas celebration last Friday night. Great food, great company and great jokes made it a fun night Well done to you all.

Bulletin Board



.RESPONSORIAL PSALM 2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT – YR.C/1

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.

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

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

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.



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Feast day 8th December



Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what

the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

You are invited to the following services:

1. Silent Contemplation

Every Tuesday at Holy Evangelist Goolwa 11am-11.35am and St Jude's Port Elliot 5pm-5.30pm

2. Grief Service

St. Augustine's Victor Harbor.
Wed. 18th December at 5pm.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING November 28th

- New positions:** Chair: Paul Kennelly
Vice Chair: Anne Fawkner
Secretary: Marilyn Freeborn
All new members were especially welcomed.
- Parish Assembly:**
Great success again but having it yearly may not be necessary.
- Pastoral Associate:**
A subcommittee has been formed to investigate and to report to January meeting.
- Parish Manager gave a very complete report of **parish activities** in the past month.
- Fr. Vinh spoke to members on the **Parish Action Plan**.

GOOLWA NEWS Lynne Healey has retired from roster management of our mid-week Mass. Lynne formerly did our weekend roster as well and retired from that role about 3 years ago. Thanks so much for your efforts and time Lynne. Robert Lee has kindly taken over the mid-week roster.

GET WELL VIVI!

Vivi has just undergone major surgery and on behalf of your many friends in our parish we all wish you a speedy recovery. Vivi has done an incredible Advent display in the church foyer!

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

will go up on Sat. 14th December from 10.00 am. All helpers welcome.

GOOLWA PAGEANT As the stalls will be set up on church grounds, we are looking for more people to help for an hour or so to just be in the church to keep an eye on those who may wish to use our toilets. Also, the Combined Churches group will be running a float in the pageant and we hope to have members of our community involved. Please see Paul if you can help.

TABLES AND CHAIRS for Sunday night's big Christmas dinner will be put out from 3.00 pm Sunday afternoon.

MANY THANKS FOR THE CUSHIONS !

Thank you to those who arranged for the cushions for our seats at St John's and St Joan's. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES

Christmas Eve

Goolwa 5.00pm

Victor 7.00pm

Christmas Day

Goolwa 8.30am

Victor 10.30am

New Year's Eve

Victor 6.00pm

New Year's Day

9.30 am Goolwa

THIS WEEK: 7th & 8th December

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm

Commentator: T. White

R.1 L. Blacket

R.2 A. Fawkner

EMHC E. O'Shaughnessy

Sunday 11am

Commentator: R. Klecko

R. 1 M. Cunningham

R. 2 A. Weygood

EMHC K. Dudley

GOOLWA 9am

Commentator: J. Ryan

R. 1 M. Mulvihill

R. 2 M. Freeborn

EMHC M. Ryan



NEXT WEEK: 14th & 15th December

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm

Commentator: L. Blacket

R.1 M. Mulvihill

R.2 C. Sutherland

EMHC M. Farmer

Sunday 11am

Commentator: P. Clingan

R. 1 T. Hounslow

R. 2 R. Klecko

EMHC M. Taylor

GOOLWA 9am

Commentator: V. Scriva

R. 1 E. Bourne

R. 2 R. Lee

EMHC T. Siciliano

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA PARISH

NGARRINDJERI and
RAMINDJERI land

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 - 8552 1084,
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 (Office 8552 1084)

• CSHW SA (Safety, Health, Welfare)
Cathy May (0401 584 237)

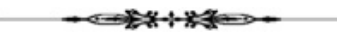
DID YOU KNOW?

- Luke goes to great lengths to describe the geographical and political world into which Jesus is born. God enters into human history at a specific time and place. The coming of Jesus for the salvation of the world is not a vague notion but a concrete event in time.
- The prophets of the Hebrew tradition were specially chosen people who spoke the word of God to Israel. John the Baptist is sometimes referred to as the last of the great prophets.
- Scholars believe that Jesus may well have spent some time as a disciple of the Baptist before embarking on his own public ministry.

(Continued from page 1)

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.



HOPE ON THE HORIZON

(Luke 3:1-6)

Imagine the valleys of your life. Those times when yawning need was met by silence. When the desire for companionship found only absence. When there were bills to pay and only holes in your pockets.

Now reflect on the mountains. The tasks that seemed insurmountable. The illnesses that dragged on and on. The hurt that seemed to grow rather than diminish with time. The challenges that seemed to have been designed with someone bigger and stronger than you in mind.

The way of the Lord is the smooth way. No valleys, no mountains, just a journey through pleasant country. Never been there? Neither had Jesus on this earth. Jesus sums up his experience with a rather sad evaluation: "My kingdom is not of this world". This world has a rough topography, complete with sin, death, and crucifixion. Yet we trust the word of Jesus because he's travelled these same valleys and mountains on the road to salvation. We're never so lost that we can't be found on these wild roads.

Map out the prominent valleys and mountains of the past year. Where do you see hope in the smooth way?

HOLY GROUND

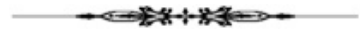
A few decades ago pundits were predicting the demise of the once mighty proud city of New York. It had

become in too many people's minds virtually ungovernable, incredibly dirty, frighteningly dangerous, and so, totally uninviting. Almost in desperation, the "I LOVE N.Y." advertising campaign was launched to counter those attitudes. And somehow it worked. The city not only survived, but despite horrendous tragedies like 9-11 and power blackouts, it has thrived.

Isaiah the prophet trumps: "Up, Jerusalem!" touting the glories of the centre-piece of God's chosen and holy land. It is a special place where God makes known the divine role that God plays in the lives of God's chosen people. Isaiah is doing quite a public relations job.

We could say the same thing about John the Baptist. He draws people to the waters of the Jordan River outside of Jerusalem, taking its muddy, lacklustre waters and turning them into something special, attracting crowds of pious pilgrims and curious onlookers.

All this is being done to remind us that the Messiah is coming soon to Jerusalem and will make what is special even more special. John the Baptist entices us with his message of repentance and anticipation. As the birth of Jesus approaches, we who are the church, the "new" Jerusalem, repent and anticipate its growing even more special.



THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(December 09-15)

- **Monday, 09:** The CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Gen 3:9-15, 20; Lk 1:26-38)
- **Tuesday, 10:** Tuesday, 2nd week Advent (Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14)
- **Wednesday, 11:** Wednesday, 2nd week Advent (Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30)
- **Thursday, 12:** Thursday, 2nd week Advent (Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15)
- **Friday, 13:** St Lucy (Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19)
- **Saturday, 14:** St John of the Cross (Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:10-13)
- **Sunday 15:** THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT (Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18)

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.