



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.



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.

1. 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. <R>

2. 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. <R>

3. 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. <R>

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!

(Continued page 4)

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

Graham Blacket, Paul Fahey,
John Tregeagle, Betty Berry,
Geoff & Rose Munro, Mark Kelly,
Tommy & Eileen McCoey,
Mairead & Neil Cummings,
Mary Ferguson, Pat Mezzino,
Pat Chigwidden, Robyn Kelly,
Stephen Chalmers, Lourdes Carle,
Sandy Lee, Tony Mawdsley,
Janet Murray, Claire Galpin,
Rosene Edwards, Shaun Edwards

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan Kennelly, Chris McCarthy,
Jim Huppertz, Frank Scriva,
Peter Kennelly, David Kennelly,
Jim Clingan

ANNIVERSARIES – JANUARY

Keith Fawkner

PARISH COLLECTION 6th & 7th December

1st (Presbytery) \$978.25
2nd (Parish) \$1044.60

VICTOR MORNING TEA 14th December

E. Dabinett & Y. Rogers
21st December
F. Hanna & V. Coffey

VICTOR MEET & GREET December Saturdays M. Tuckey

December Sundays R. Reid & A. Rose

GOOLWA MEET & GREET

December

P. Kennelly

MORNING TEA

December

A. Turner, R. Lee

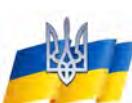
ST JOHN'S MUSIC GROUP

Practice 3.00pm Wednesday.
Claire Williams 0429 008 199

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE and

THE

HOLY
LAND



Bulletin Board



HOLY FATHER'S 2025 PRAYER INTENTIONS:

FOR DECEMBER: For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

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 "Let us 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.

Let us appreciate the moments of joy both large and small in our lives.

2025 VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS - CAN YOU HELP THIS WEEK?

Tuesday 16th December 9.30am St Joan's Annex to unpack donated food items

Thursday 18th December 9.30am St Joan's Annex to pack Christmas Hampers.

No need to RSVP. Just come along.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

'While Christmas is meant to be the happiest time of the year, it's become a financially stressful time for three in five (59 percent) Australians,'

said the Society's National President, Mark Gaetani.

ENVELOPES IN THE PORCHES OF OUR CHURCHES

GOOLWA CHRISTMAS NIGHT After the great success of the Victor Christmas Party about 60 people attended the Goolwa Christmas night last Sunday night and enjoyed a great evening. A real team effort by all who set up the hall as well by all who provided such great salads to go with our cold pork, ham, and turkey. The St. John Singers had us singing along with popular songs and Christmas carols, and really added to the spirit of Christmas. Thanks so much ladies for lending us your great talents for the night. Then when the cleaning the dishes and the hall had to be done many rolled up their sleeves and when we left you would not have known an event had just occurred. Again many thanks to you all for giving us a wonderful Christmas celebration for 2025.

Our thanks also to the **LUTHERAN COMMUNITY WHO WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S** for a delightful Advent Tea held recently. Prayer, Scripture with humour, good company, Christmas Carols and Songs from our St John Singers were very much appreciated.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY

We will not be publishing our centre pages of the Encounter during January. If you would like to include anniversaries of loved ones that occur in January please let us know their names and we will include them this month.

Thank you. Phone or text Fran 0415 124 010.

RENEW YOUR REQUEST FOR NAMES IN SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Names in the Special Intentions column will be deleted at the end of December. If you would like to keep names in the column or add others please give names in writing to Pat or Elaine at Victor or Rosemary at Goolwa or you can text Fran on 0415 124 010. Thank you.

Bulletin Board

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

GOOLWA: Christmas Eve **5.00pm**

Christmas Day **8.30am**

VICTOR: Christmas Eve **7.00pm**

Christmas Day **10.30am**

NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

GOOLWA: **6.00pm** New Year's Eve

VICTOR: **10.00am** New Year's Day



THERE ARE SHEETS IN THE PORCH AT VICTOR WITH A LIST OF TIMES WHERE READERS AND COMMENTATORS ARE NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. PLEASE VOLUNTEER IF YOU CAN.

EXCERPT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR SISTER PARISH CONNECTION BETWEEN VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH AND MARIA AUXILIADORA PARISH, COMORO, TIMOR LESTE.

From the beginning, our Sister Parish Connection has focused on education, youth and the poor. Mark's recent visit to Timor as our Parish representative was a great learning experience. We were given a clear indication to attend to the more pressing needs of the *rural sector* in Timor. Any monetary assistance will still flow through our Comoro Sister Parish and Comoro will not be denied further assistance. We aim to support four project proposals directly from the Agricultural and Elementary School at Fuiloro. We currently have sufficient funds in the Comoro account. The proposals are as follows

1. Agricultural protective fence and pig feed.
2. Fruit and vegetable garden expansion.
3. Refectory roof extension.
4. Library building restorations.

An extra bright note on the near horizon is the visit of a Timorese priest to our parish on the 6th of January.

Our thanks to the parish for your generous support in 2025.

EARTHCARE MESSAGE



The Saviour comes this Christmas to renew our hearts and our hope that our common home can also be saved: *"Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise"* (Pope Francis).

When we behold Jesus as a child in creation, we not only admire the beauty of the natural world but also commit ourselves to its care. Thank you for participating in our efforts to bring care to our earth this year. A special greeting from our worms!! (Worm juice on sale at Victor this weekend!!) *Earthcare Group Victor/Goolwa*



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

We pray for those in our parish for whom Christmas will bring sorrow as well as joy, those who are missing loved ones,

those who are struggling with illness, their own or those of relatives and friends.

May they hear deep in their hearts the words of Jesus

"Come to me all those who are heavily burdened and I will give you rest."

THIS WEEK: 13th & 14th December

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm

Commentator: A. Fawkner

R.1 L. Blacket

R.2 C. Allen

EMHC E. O'Shaughnessy

Sunday 11am

Commentator: P. O'Brien

R. 1 W. Baker

R. 2 A. Rose

EMHC J. Baker

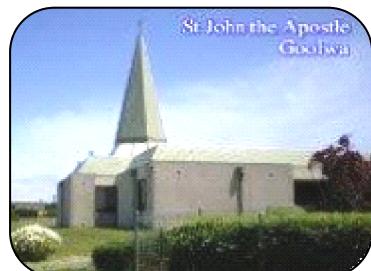
GOOLWA 9am

Commentator: Marie Riddle

R1 M. O'Halloran

R2 Michael Riddle

EMHC T. Siciliano



NEXT WEEK: 20th & 21st December

VICTOR HARBOR Saturday 6pm

Commentator: T. White

R.1 C. Sutherland

R.2 M. Mulvihill

EMHC E. O'Connell

Sunday 11am

Commentator: F. Hanna

R. 1 G. Ryan

R. 2 L. Sunman

EMHC A. Fawkner

GOOLWA 9am

Commentator: V. Scriva

R1 P. Kennelly

R2 A. Cowley

EMHC R. Austin

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC 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 MANAGER

Mrs Pat Clingan (0410 593 617)
(Monday & Thursday: 10am - 12 noon)
Email: Parish_manager@bigpond.com

• PARISH ENCOUNTER

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

• INTEGRITY & SAFEGUARDING

We are a safeguarding Organisation which is committed to the care, well-being and protection of children, young people and adults at risk.

- Andy Nicholls
(VH/G contact - 0475 893 521 or andrewnicholls6@gmail.com)
- Integrity and Safeguarding Dept (8210 8150 - select Option 2)
- CSHW SA (Work, Health and Safety) please contact Jim Dabinett (0460 033 529)



(Continued from page 1)

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, 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 GLIMPSE OF ADVENT

Daniel had been rushing all week, with end of year school events, late nights at work, and Christmas shopping still untouched. By Friday evening he felt drained and guilty, knowing Advent was half over and he had not prayed once with his family, let alone found any sense of peace.

On the way home, stuck at a traffic light, he noticed an elderly man sitting on the bench outside the supermarket. People hurried past him, heads down, already in holiday mode. The man's trolley held only two items, a loaf of bread and a tin of soup. Daniel felt a gentle nudge inside to stop for a moment, but the light turned green and he drove on.

At home, his daughter Emily was waiting to light the Advent candle.

"You missed it again, Dad," she said softly, not accusing, just disappointed. Something in her voice echoed the nudge from the supermarket. He realised he was racing through a season meant for waiting, watching, and noticing.

The next morning, Daniel drove back to the shops. The old man was there again. This time, Daniel parked, walked over, introduced himself, and offered to buy him groceries. The man smiled, surprised and grateful. They talked for a few minutes, nothing dramatic, nothing world changing, but Daniel walked away with a feeling he had not felt in weeks. Christ had been right there, waiting to be noticed. That night, Daniel gathered his family around the table. "Today," he told them, "I finally saw Advent happen."

Advent is not found in perfect schedules or the rush toward Christmas. It is found in the small, inconvenient moments when we choose compassion over hurry and presence over distraction. This week, slow down just once. Notice the person you usually pass by. Respond to the gentle nudge. Let your family see you live the Gospel in the ordinary. In that simple act, Christ becomes visible through you.

GPBS eNews

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(15 - 18 December)

- **Monday, 15:** Mon 3rd week, Advent (Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27)
- **Tuesday, 16:** Tue 3rd week, Advent (Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32)
- **Wednesday, 17:** Wed 3rd week, Advent, (Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17)
- **Thursday, 18:** Thur 3rd week, Advent (Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24)
- **Friday, 19:** Fri 3rd week, Advent (Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25)
- **Saturday, 20:** Sat 3rd week, Advent (Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38)
- **Sunday 21:** 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.