



The Coming of the Lord

Drop down dew ye heavens from above. Let the earth be opened and bud forth the Saviour.

Happy New Year!

While a month yet remains in the civil year, the Church is celebrating the beginning of a new Liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. Advent — from the Latin *ad venio*, “to come” — is the liturgical season anticipating the *Adventus Domini*, the “coming of the Lord.”

The Eternal Word, who is outside of time, became Incarnate in time, thereby making all time sacred. In the season of Advent, we await the coming of Christ on all the levels which we experience time: *in the past* — as a babe in the stable of Bethlehem; *in the present* — as grace in our souls; and *in the future* — as the Judge at the end of time.

The Advent season is filled with preparation and expectation. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas — shopping and decorating, baking and cleaning. Too often, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the real reason for our activity: the Word made flesh coming to dwell among us. Christians are urged to preserve the spiritual focus of Christmas amidst the prevailing secular and consumer-driven society.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, let us strive to keep Advent a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and hope, meditating often on the incredible love and humility of our God in taking on flesh of the Virgin Mary. In our shopping and baking, let us remember to purchase and prepare something for the poor. When we clean our homes, let us distribute some of our possessions to those who lack many necessities. While we are decking the halls of our homes, let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein our Savior may come to dwell.

Focus on the Liturgy

I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.

There are always four Sundays in Advent, though not necessarily four full weeks. The liturgical colour of the season is violet or purple, except on the Third Sunday of Advent, called *Gaudete* or Rejoice Sunday, when optional rose vestments may be worn. The Gloria is not recited during Advent liturgies, but the Alleluia is retained.

The prophecies of Isaiah are read often during the Advent season, but all of the readings of Advent focus on the key figures of the Old and New Testaments who were prepared and chosen by God to make the Incarnation possible: the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, Sts. Elizabeth and Zechariah. The expectancy heightens from December 17 to December 24, when the Liturgy resounds with the seven magnificent Messianic titles of the O Antiphons.

The Advent season also has a Marian and pro-life focus. We meditate on this wonderful mystery of the Word Made Flesh with as much eagerness as his Mother, Mary prepared and awaited the birth of her son. We celebrate the special feasts of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Other saints’ days traditionally associated in with our preparation for Christmas include St. Nicholas, patron saint of children whose feast falls on December 6, and the saint of light, St. Lucy on December 13.

*Activity Source: Original Text (JGM) by Jennifer Gregory Miller,
© Copyright 2003-2025 by [Jennifer Gregory Miller](#)*

30 November 2025
First Sunday of Advent
Year A

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1. (R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading from the letter to the Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:37-44

Communion Antiphon
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Week
7 December 2025
Second Sunday of
Advent Year A

First: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7
Second: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday of October at 12noon

Maori Mass: 1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Weekday Mass

9am each day except Thursday;

Thursday at 7.30pm

Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

Reconciliation

every Saturday at 11am

Devotions & Prayer groups

Adoration with the Rosary:

Saturday at 9.30am

Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass

& devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm

Faith Circles: every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom

Holy Family Fellowship:

every 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club: meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Friendship Group: is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Bible Study & Reflection

Group: meets Monday at 10am.

Children's Ministry

Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Ascent Youth Ministry:

meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30pm.

Parish Notices

Advent Books "The Promise" are now available from the Parish office and the Piety stall. The cost is \$5.00

Vinnies are having the Christmas Appeal this weekend. The tree is in the foyer and you can take a tag and bring back the item written on the tag. Some tags are food items and some are gifts for specific age children. There will be a money collection this weekend to support the work of Vinnie's in our local community.

The Friendship Group will be meeting on Tuesday 2nd of December at the Meeting room after the 9am Mass. It will be a **Christmas Brunch party**. Please bring a dish or plate to share and a gift (value maximum \$10) for the Kris Kringle.

Advent group will run on Monday's for the next 3 weeks as a replacement of Faith Circles in Advent at 2pm and 7.00pm on Zoom. Please contact chaughey2@optusnet.com.au

Advent group will run on Tuesday evening for 3 weeks from 7pm - 8.30pm in the Parish meeting room with a light supper provided. For further details or questions please contact Paul & Loriana 0412216589.

You are invited to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Immaculate Conception: to say the Holy Rosary at the back of our Church on 8 December (Monday) at 8.00 am and followed by Mass at 9 am in the Church.

Working bee will be held on Saturday 6 December from 9am—2pm to clean up the grounds and parish in preparation for Christmas. Come along for an hour or 2. Your assistance will be appreciated.

Peter Kearney— Advent to Christmas Concert Friday 12th December, 7.00PM—Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 193 St Andrews Road, Varroville. Reflection and celebration with Peter Kearney, a Catholic composer, singer and guitarist who has made music his work since the 1980s. His best known compositions include 'Fill My House' and 'The Beatitudes'. The first part of Peter's presentation will focus on Advent themes of preparation. Then he will look ahead to the joyful time of Christmas, with songs including an Australian Christmas song and a traditional carol. There will be opportunities for audience participation. Children are welcome. Entry by donation. Refreshments at interval. Peter's CDs and music will be available.

The Indian community invites you to celebrate the Holy Mass of St Francis Xavier's Feast on the 3rd of December at 6.30 pm. Mass at St Thomas More Catholic Church, 43 Acacia Ave, Ruse. Please bring a plate to share.

New Study Opportunities at the Notre Dame Study Centre, Oran Park The University of Notre Dame Australia is now offering a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Primary Education through the Notre Dame Study Centre at Oran Park. The Reach Higher Program supports students from rural, regional, and remote areas with scholarships, flexible study options, and community engagement opportunities. For more information, please refer to the flyers or contact education@nd.edu.au

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve:

Christmas Pageant & Carols at 6pm

Vigil Mass at 7pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Mass at 9am

Parish Reconciliation Service

Friday 19 December at 7.30pm



What's on around the Diocese? [dow.sh/stayingconnected](https://www.dow.org.au/stayingconnected) or [dow.sh/weeklybulletin](https://www.dow.org.au/weeklybulletin) see everything that is on around our Diocese!

Hear from Pope Leo XIV Sunday Echo is a limited-release resource the Diocese has developed that contains, using the Holy Father's most recent homily or reflection and accompanying discussion questions. Each issue will be released the day after Pope Leo XIV gives a homily or reflection on the most recent Sunday Gospel readings go to <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/> to access or sign up to have sent straight to you.

menALIVE Growing Good Men Weekend 2025 Friday 5 – Sunday 7 December 2025, The Tops Conference Centre: A powerful weekend for fathers and their teenage sons (ages 12–17). Strengthen your bond, explore the journey into manhood, and share in engaging activities, reflection, prayer, and a memorable Rite of Passage. Places are limited – register early to secure your spot! \$400 per father & son pair (includes accommodation, meals, activities & resources). For more information and registration, visit www.dow.org.au/events

Advent Retreat - St Mary's Towers: 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park, 9:30am – 3:30pm Saturday 13 December; You are invited to a day of calm contemplation amongst the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre in Douglas Park. This is a day of embracing a slower pace, rekindling our inner journey, and enjoying time with like-minded others. The day will include sensory prayer walks, lectio divina, breathing meditation and praying through walking the labyrinth. Morning tea and lunch are included. Cost: \$60 (meals included); RSVP by 3 December: contact 0422 725 438 or christabelhoneysett@barnabasministries.org.au

2025 Advent Retreat - From Eden to Bethlehem From Eden to Bethlehem is a retreat day based on The Great Adventure Bible Timeline™ Learning System. The Bible Timeline™ Learning System ties all of Scripture together by following God's "family plan"... from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. A Life-Changing Approach to Scripture! **Date:** Saturday 13 December from 9am - 5pm at Holy Family Parish Ingleburn - Parish Meeting Room; **Retreat Facilitator:** Charbel Raish; **Cost:** Free (A donation for the retreat facilitator will be appreciated). Please contact the parish office for more information or visit www.hfi.org.au

The Funeral for May Whitlock will be held on Thursday 4 December at 10.30am.

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Paul Crawford, Pat Cullen,
Mary Ponnappalam,
Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran,
Karen Browne, Reg Gardner,
Sr Heather Burke, Barry
Atkins, Carol & Gabriel
Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez,
Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty,
Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib,
John Kajdryns, Pat Stewart,
Allan Marquinez, Richard
Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic,

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently departed

May Whitlock,
Anniversaries that occur at this time Giuseppe Cuomo,
Angela Tomarchio

and all the holy souls remembered in the month of November

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

Our Rosters

7 December 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela & Cecilia	Bianca, Antony & Laura	Geoff, Margaret & Danni
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra, Abigail & Austin	Vu	Robert, Nathan & Cassandra
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Andy & Caroline	Fev & Madonna
Altar Linen	Maria	CLOTW: Josephine & Princy	
Counters	Christine & Cira	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office

Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
Address: 193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville
Email: varroville@dow.org.au
Website: varroville.dow.org.au



We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:37-44

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Wake up to the Poetry

During World War II, my father fought in North Africa and in what is present day Israel, Palestine and Syria. He never spoke about any particular battle. This is common amongst those who have actually been to war. Perhaps they know the shock to the human spirit which comes from being caught up in large-scale organised killing, and so they often remain mute about what they experienced.

That is why Isaiah's prophecy of a world in harmony with God's plan for humankind has resonated so strongly for thousands of years. The imagery he conjured up has expressed the aspiration of generation after generations: '[the nations] will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.'

When the Risen Lord Jesus Christ is ready to incorporate the whole saga of humanity into heavenly glory, of course Isaiah's vision will be a feature of our way of existence – no more wars, no more armed conflict tearing apart bodies and minds and societies and nations.

When will this come to pass? Our Lord says we can't know any more than a householder knows when a burglar will suddenly target a family home. But, in the meantime, Our Lord wants us to 'be awake'.

A fridge magnet issued by a previous government used to exhort us to 'be alert but not alarmed'. That expresses something of today's gospel message because Our Lord is saying 'Don't panic about the future. God, but only God, knows its timetable. But don't make that an excuse for being lazy and lethargic, sluggish and sleepy.'

Be awake, rouse yourself, because our task in the interim is to get on with actions which can help bring about a human society already beginning to match Isaiah's vision.

And that includes the question of the waging of war. In the last few decades, the Church has grown more and more sensitive to this question. If you look in the Catechism, you will find that the Church's official teaching is very restrictive and tersely worded. This is shown, for example, by speaking of the necessary conditions for a *defensive war*, rather than using the traditional *just war* language.

Matters have become acute with the illegal invasion of Ukraine. Cardinal Parolin, the Secretary of State for the Holy See has said that defensive warfare is justified as a last resort until some sort of negotiated settlement can be achieved.

But, let us return to poetry. Our Lord loved to unfurl the scroll of the prophet Isaiah in his local synagogue. Who can doubt that his imagination was fired by the poetic image of swords being hammered into ploughshares? Of course, he renounced the use of violence to throw off the despotism of Rome and its occupying army.

Another poet, Karol Wojtyla, spoke to the Church in his age. Precisely in the context of writing on life and death and warfare, Pope John Paul II went to the heart of the matter. What is at stake when a human being is killed in armed conflict? Indeed, who is a human being? Here is that Pope's description in poetic, but theologically accurate, terms. '... although formed from the dust of the earth, [a human being] is a manifestation of God in the world a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory.' (*Evangelium Vitae* 54.2). The Pope spoke in anguished terms of killing such a magnificent creature, even in the course of 'justified' warfare.

Let us adopt this portrayal of a human being so beautifully crafted by John Paul II and let us wed it to the poetry of Isaiah. Let us keep wakeful and energetic in striving to bring the world into harmony with God's plan for its consummation in glory. Let us be alert and dynamic in furthering God's plan for humanity, the plan already inaugurated by Jesus of Nazareth, Our Divine Master, Prince of Peace.