

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

14th December 2008

THEME: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

This Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday and our readings invite us to "Rejoice always!" (As we light the rose candle on our Advent wreath), we remind ourselves of the happy eagerness of little children who wait for Christmas.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOOD NEWS

Together in Christ, in whom we believe and whose heralds we are, we will find the strength to be the good news that the world needs and longs to hear - the good news that God is, that God is present, that God hears and cares and graces all who reach out. And when these cannot reach out to God for themselves, then it is we who will bring God to them. In our alertness to every human need, we are good news. In our courage to speak of these needs to others, we become gospel. In our efforts to alleviate the needs of others, to tend their hungers as well as their angers, their wounds as well as their wants, we become evangelists. When we bring the good news of God's love into every strata of the human condition and dare to deal head-on with the evils that plague our brothers and sisters, then we are glad tidings. When we cease being overwhelmed by evil and are more confident that goodness can never be overcome by it, then, by God and by grace, we become good news that begs to be heard by all God's people.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Michael Rooney, Mihovil Katalinic, Dinny Wighton, Vin Griffiths, Bruce Tate, Juanita Jervois, Norina Spinelli, Bishop Brennan, Nancy Gibson, Anne Ferguson, Lionel West, John Hunt, Francesca Morton, Rob Deller, Mary McNamara, Ria Stumpe, James Williams, Joan Sullivan, Mary Cooper, Wendy Murphy, Stan Sawaski, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Marjory Stott, Gerri Boldrini, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Luke Heffernan, Rosel Free, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, Ben Harper, Gregory Cummins, Bess Harris, Nicholas Hetherington, Joseph Doran, Effie Ray, Sandra Varrasso, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods and Marie Cook.

Grant eternal life to:

Jack Hannan, Ethel French, Leo Brooks, John Mikulski, Lucy Wright, Rita Boadle and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

George Reis, Leo Keane and all our loved ones whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:
Brian Twomey, Lorraine Hill and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

ANNABELLA ROBERTS

ISOBELLA GOUVEIA

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection this weekend at all Masses to enable St Vincent de Paul to continue helping the poor and needy in our own city. Envelopes are on the seats for those who wish to promise or use the direct debit facility.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with Youth Expo. We would especially like to thank all those who billeted young people and helped with catering. It was a wonderful success.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHILDREN'S TRADITIONAL NATIVITY PLAY AND CAROLS NIGHT

Friday 19th December 6.00-7.30pm. Nativity play by the children, youth group and young adults leading the carols, visit from Santa, drinks and nibbles. Coffee, tea, soft drink provided. Please don't miss this opportunity to put Christ back into Christmas for your family and yourselves!

*There's *always* room at the Inn, so if any more children would like to be in the play, please ring Anna on 6023 3838 and we'll get you into a costume! No speaking required by cast, so no need to be shy.

Please bring a finger food plate to share.

SANCTUARY & FLOWER ROSTER FOR 2009

Volunteers are needed for the St Patrick's Church Altar Roster. This requires about one hour of your time once a week for two weeks of the year to dust the church and arrange flowers. Usually done on a Friday afternoon it is a great way to meet people, or get a group together to help your parish church. Please phone Nan Brandt on 6021 5060 or the Parish Secretary on 6041 2588 if you can help.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Patrick's Meals on Wheels Team will deliver meals the week commencing Monday 22nd December 2008.

WITNESS

Helpers of God's Precious Infants Prayer Group will be witnessing to life at the local abortion clinic on Thursday 18th December after the 10.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church. Please join us in pray for as long as you are able.

TOGETHER

The Christmas edition of Together is available for free distribution at the church doors.

CHRISTMAS TREE

The St Vincent de Paul Society would be grateful for donations of toys and non perishable food items which may be left under the Christmas Tree in the front of the church for distribution by the Society to people in need.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CARDS & CALENDARS

Cards \$6.00 per pack of 10

Caldendars \$7.00 each.

Please place money in the "Paper Money" Box.

CHRISTMAS EVE, MIDNIGHT MASS

Practice will be held on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church for any singers interested in singing at Midnight Mass. Come along to enjoy singing. Elaine Buchhorn on 6025 8624.

ALBURY-WODONGA BIBLE FEST '09

Childrens Program: Monday 5th January-Saturday 10th January, 10.00am-12.00pm at West Albury Public School (511 Mott Street).

Family Lunches: Monday 5th January 12.15pm at Westside Community Centre (16 Mulga Place, West Albury) and Tuesday 6th January, 12.30pm at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (402 Wagga Road Lavington).

Teens Program: Monday 5th-Tuesday 6th & Thursday 8th-Saturday 10th January, 4.30pm-6.30pm at Westside Community Centre (16 Mulga Place West Albury).

Youth Event: Tuesday 6th January, 6.00pm at David Street Skate Park Albury. BBQ for teenagers & young adults.

For more information: Damian & Juanita 0428 573 812, bpbrowser11@hotmail.com or Rowan & Lisa 6023 3140.

YOUTH GROUP(12-17YRS)

St Patrick's Youth Group meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 5.30pm Mass in the hall. If you like meeting new people, eating junk food and getting to know your faith better, then youth group is for you. Contact Fr Lee: 6041 2588 or Miriam: 0400 419 981.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP, 18-35 YRS

St Patrick's holds a weekly discussion group for 18-35 year olds on Wednesday nights at 7.00pm in the upper room of St Patrick's hall. For more information, contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 or email mizmim@gmail.com , John Burton 0400 574 958 or Marcus Shaw 0418 463 952.

Snippet

Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, and in it the whole Church is called to become hope, for herself and for the world. (Benedict XVI)