

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

30th November 2008

THEME: Mark 13: 33-36

On this first Sunday of Advent our readings speak to us of the last days. The candles of the Advent wreath remind us of the passing of time. As we light the first candle, let us pray for the grace to make of our lives a preparation for eternal life with God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 3rd December Francis Xavier, priest

Friday 5th December 1st Friday, Sacred Heart

Saturday 6th December 1st Saturday, Fatima

A NEW YEAR, A NEW PAGE

Mary, who probably had other plans for herself and Joseph, was called to allow God to rewrite her story. Her own version of her future surely did not include being a mother before marriage, but God's draft for her life took her on a path that included unexpected difficulties.

Mark, in today's Gospel, reminds us that while we cannot know **when**, we do know **how** we are to prepare **through watchful waiting**. While we cannot know what God may choose to write on the pages of this new liturgical year before us, and we may not know how God will shape the clay that is our life, we do know some things with certainty: Ours is a loving and merciful God. Ours is a God who looks down from heaven and sees us in all we are, in all we do. Ours is a God who gives new life and new beginnings to all who call out in hope (Responsorial Psalm 80).

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

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 Glica, 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:

Ethel French, Leo Brooks, John Mikulski, Lucy Wright, Rita Boadle, Claireen Rau, Tom O'Brien, Judith Falconer and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

We remember all our loved ones whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Deceased Members of the Catholic Women's League, Lorraine Hill and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

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

AMALIA DILLON

FOR YOUR DIARY

ALBURY PARISHES EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Spirit, Lavington, Friday 5th December from 6.00pm to 10.00pm.

Will you not watch one hour with me?

YOUTH EXPO 2008 RETREAT WEEKEND

This weekend our Parish is conducting a Youth Expo Retreat. Please keep the young people in your prayers.

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.

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.

DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY WORKER

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga is seeking to employ a Youth Ministry Worker to continue to support youth ministry in the post WYD08 Diocesan community. The position will be for 21 hours per week - 3 days per week, negotiable, in Wagga Wagga commencing February 2009. Salary will be in the range of \$16.50-\$20.35 per hour depending on qualifications and experience. Enquiries can be directed to the Chancellor on (02) 6921 2164 or the

Employment Manager on (02) 6937 0014, or an application package can be accessed at www.wagga.catholic.org.au

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

Caleendars \$7.00 each.

Please place money in the "Paper Money" Box.

MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING THE SICK

Thursday 4th December at 10.30am in St Patrick's Church. Confessions 10.00-10.30am.

HOLY HOUR, EXPOSITION WITH ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

Wednesday 3rd December from 5.30-6.30pm in St Patrick's Church - prayer in reparation of sins against and a greater respect for all human life.

ST VINCENT de PAUL MASS

You are invited to join St Vincent de Paul Members and Supporters for the 5.30pm Festival Mass at St Patrick's Church on Friday 5th December.

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.

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

We need to remember that we are preparing all our young people for all kinds of vocations, and also for eternity. (Bishop Joseph Grech)